

Criticism Destroys: Love Does Not

Description

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Galatians 5:13-26

“For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other” (vv. 14-15).

As a pastor I have found that criticism and a lack of unity are some of the hardest things to heal in a church once they have taken hold. The complaints come fast and furious. Rarely are they undone or replaced with a positive opinion when they have begun, even when change is obvious. This is why Paul made such an emphasis on being part of the same Body, unified in the same Spirit, and one in our humble recognition of the work that Jesus Christ did for us.

The church kitchen can be a mess, the bathrooms may not be fully cleaned, and the kids may not respect the space they have been given, but when we approach each other in the command of loving each other as ourselves—sinners saved by immeasurable grace—then we can better avoid “devouring each other.”

Author: Sean Carr

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