

Ladder to Success

Step 8: Love

ETS: Peter challenged the Christians to supplement their faith with love

ESS: Supplement your faith with love

OSS: Love People

PQ: Do you love fellow Christ-followers?

UW:

ME

Do you remember your first crush?

- Did you buy him/her something?
- Did you do something dumb?

What do they need to know?

- Love is a verb

Why do they need to know it?

- We think love is only a feeling

What do they need to do?

- Make love a verb

Why do they need to do it?

- Without love the supplements ring hollow

How can I help them remember?

Meeting Kim Lord at Class Reunion

- English Leather...

Isn't it funny what we do when we think we are in love with someone?

- Sometimes we lose our minds when we think we love someone!

There was a girl that I had a crush on in high school.

- One day we had a youth meeting at our youth pastor's home. Next to his house was a parking lot. I thought I would impress the girl I had my eye on by doing some donuts in the parking lot with my little bright yellow Fiat (Talk about a chick car!).
- Her dad saw me doing the donuts and told her that she could not ride with me if I was going to drive like that!
 - I was trying to impress her; instead, I embarrassed myself!

Do you remember your first crush?

- Did you buy him/her something?

When we have someone we “love” or have feelings for, we try to show it by doing something.

- Buy **flowers**, takes her out to a **nice restaurant**, etc.
 - We are **motivated** by **love**!

WE

Marriage counseling is interesting

- **Premarital** counseling you have the couple who are “googoo eyed”
 - There **body language** tells you that they are “in love”

- They **sit next** to each other, they **lean into** each other

I talk to them about making a “date night” after they are married

- They just can’t imagine being married **without** a date night!
 - They love to date, go out, walk in the park, etc.

I talk to them about how to “**fight fairly**”

- They don’t want to “fight” but when they do they make up quickly
 - They are never mad at each other **too long**
 - They both are **quick** to **admit** their **faults** to each other
 - They are “**in love**”

On the other hand, there is the **other marital** counseling

- **Couples** who come to see me are in the throws of marital death
 - They haven’t had a “**date night**” for years
 - They’ll do **anything** for their **children**, but **not** each other
 - Their **body language** tells me that there are some **barriers**

- They **sit apart**, away from each other, and they certainly don't hold hands!

What happened to love?

- 5, 10, or 20 years ago this **same couple** sat in a minister's office all googooed eyed!
 - They loved "dating" each other
 - They were so "in love" they couldn't see straight!
- Somewhere along the way the **love** they once experienced went into **neutral** and then started to **atrophy** and is almost **dead**!

How do you keep love from dying?

How is it that some couple have been "in love" for 50 years and it shows?

- They are still googooey eyed!
- They still hold hands
- They still go on dates!

How do you keep love from dying?

GOD

Turn to **2 Peter 1:5**

We've been looking at "Supplements to our faith"

CHALLENGE: 2 Peter 1:5 “For this very reason make every **effort** to supplement your faith....”

- Based on vs. 8-11, IF we will “**Supplement our faith**” the results will be = **Productivity, clarity, stability, humility and joy**
 - Not worldly success
 - **Any Christ-follower** can experience this success!

Peter is writing to **BELIEVERS**—people who have **FAITH in Christ!**

- God have **given believers**
 - “Everything needed for life and godliness”
 - “very great and precious promises”
 - The **ability** to “Share in God’s divine nature” so that we can “Escape the corruption that is in the world”

FAITH in Christ will “**Get you into heaven**” but to “**Get into the game**”.... a believer needs to “**make every effort** to supplement your faith....”

2 Peter 1:5 “For this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with **goodness...**”

**SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH
GOODNESS**

“goodness” = **“Moral excellence”** or **“virtue”**

- **“Make every effort to” Obey** God’s commands regarding morality!
 - Do not **commit sexual sin**
 - Do not engage in **impurity**
 - **Remove** any *triggers* that may lead you into sin
 - **Avoid** situations that may lead you into immoral actions

2 Peter 1:5 **“For this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge.”**

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH KNOWLEDGE

The word **“knowledge”** here refers to *practical* knowledge.

- Learn from the **consequences** of **YOUR sin-past** and **present**
- Learn from the **consequences** of sin in **other’s** lives
- Learn by **putting** into **practice** what you **KNOW**

- Don't just be a “**Hearer**” of God's Word, but be a “**Doer**”!

Make every effort” to *put what you KNOW into practice!*

2 Peter 1:5-6a “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, 6 knowledge with **self-control**....

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH SELF-CONTROL

Self-Control is: “**power over oneself**”

- **Self-Control** happens when you say “**no**” to those
 - **Triggers** that have led you into sin in the past
 - **Situations** that have led you into sin in the past
 - **People** who have led you into sin in the past
- **Self-Control** happens when you say “**walk away**” from those things that...
 - Are **destructive**
 - **Hurt** your **testimony**

- **Hinder** your relationship with God

“Make every effort to supplement your faith” by exercising **self-control** over your **sinful nature!**

2 Peter 1:5-6 “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with **endurance**....”

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH ENDURANCE

What does it mean to “supplement your faith with endurance?”

- “**Endurance**” is to “stick with the plan despite **adversity**”

If WE are going to be “**Fruitful and useful**” in our “**knowledge of Christ**” then WE must “**Endure**” **despite** the *perceived delay* in His coming, **despite** the **adversity** we may face (**physical, mental, spiritual and emotional**)

- We “**Endure**” by **resting** in Him!
 - We “**rest**” in Christ when we **TRUST CHRIST despite perceived delays or adversity**

2 Peter 1:5-6 “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, 6 knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with **godliness**”

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH GODLINESS

Based on what Paul taught in **1 Timothy 6**, to “**Supplement your faith with godliness**” means you....

- *Embrace* the “**sound teaching of Christ**”
- *Embrace* the “**teaching that promotes godliness**”
- Do not use *God as a* “**way to material gain**”
- You are **not** “**conceited**”
- You do not **thrive** on “**disputes and arguments over words**”
- You are **not** “**envious**” of others
- You are **not** “**Quarrelsome**”
- You are **not** **slanders**
- You are **not** “**filled with evil suspicions**”
- You are **not** **in** “**constant disagreement**” with others—especially other believers!

2 Peter 1:5-7a “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, 6 knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, 7godliness with **brotherly affection....**”

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH BROTHERLY AFFECTION

“**Brotherly affection**” = Love for Fellow Believers

- Jesus said that people will know we are His followers “**If we have love one for another.**”
- Love for one another is EVIDENCE of our salvation

We are finally at the **LAST Supplement!**

- This is the last ingredient we need to “**Add to**” our faith if we want to be “**useful**” and “**Fruitful**” for Christ.
 - IF we want to be **Productive** for Christ
 - If we want to have **Clarity** as we navigate this world
 - If we want **Stability** in our believe and actions
 - If we want to continue to walk in **Humility**
 - If we want our **JOY** to increase

2 Peter 1:5-7 “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, 6 knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, 7 godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with **love**.”

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH LOVE

Haven't we talked about “love”?

- Supplement of **Brotherly affection**
 - Isn't this a little **redundant**?

Obviously, they are **similar**: “**Brotherly affection**” (love) and “**love**”

Obviously, they are **different**:

- “**Brotherly affection**” tells us **whom** we should love – each other
- “**Love**” **doesn't** tell us whom we should love!

It is easier to do something when you know what is **expected** of you

- We know that believers **should love** believers!
 - Last week, we saw that if a person **professes** to be a believer, but doesn't like other believers, **dislikes** the **church**, hates Christian, he/she is **not** a Christian

- The **Apostle John** made it clear that there is no way a person can **experience** the love of God and **then refuse** to show that love to fellow believers!

Having “**brotherly love**” is the **basement** level of love for Christ-followers!

- **Expected** that true **believers love** other **believers**
- **Expected** that believers show **compassion** for each other
- **Expected** that believers **love** each other from the **heart**
 - WHY? Because believers have experienced the love of Christ
 - WHY? Because believers have a common bond through Christ!

But we are going to go a **level higher** here with the simple command to “**supplement our faith with love**”

What does Peter mean when he tells us to “**supplement our faith with love**”?

- **Problem: Peter doesn’t elaborate**
 - He **assumes** that we understand this kind of love

However, WE live in a culture that confuses and misuses the word “love”

- We say things like “I love Moose Tracks ice cream”
 - What does that mean?
 - Does that mean you are willing to sacrifice for Moose Tracks?
 - *You may sacrifice you “gut” but probably not much else!*
 - What does that mean?
 - Does that mean that Moose Track is your best friend?

We have used and **misused** the word “love” that we are not sure what it means anymore!

- When a **guy** says “I love her”
 - What does he mean?
 - Does he mean he would die for her to protect her?
 - Or does he just mean he thinks she “hot”

In the church WE sing songs like “Oh, how I love Jesus” but do we mean it when the offering plate comes around or when the Holy Spirit prompts us to witness?

Love is MORE than a word!

- Anyone can say “I love you”
- Anyone can sing “Oh, How I Love Jesus”

How do we “supplement our faith” with love?

- In order to “supplement our faith with love” we have to know what “love” looks like!

The Apostle **Paul** gives us a picture of what this kind of love looks like in **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a**

- Circle the words “is” and “does” in v. 4-5
- Love **is** patient; Love **is** kind. Love **does not** envy; (Love) **is not** boastful; (Love) **is not** conceited; (Love) **does not** act improperly; (Love) **is not** selfish; (Love) **is not** provoked; (Love) **does not** keep a record of wrongs;

All of these are pictures of **love in action**

- “[Love] **finds** no joy in unrighteousness, but **rejoices** in the truth; **7 bears** all things, **believes** all things, **hopes** all things, **endures** all things. **8** Love never ends...”

What is love?

- It is **not** “static!”
- It is **not** a “saying”

Love is expressed in an action!

- You can tell someone that you “**Love**” them but if there is **not action** the words are meaningless!

Warning: Love is not just any action!

- **Love consists of God’s actions toward us!**
 - **1 John 4:8: “God is love”**
 - **God is the very definition of love!**
 - God provides the **examples** of what **love** looks like!
 - God provides the **examples** of **how** love acts
 - **God is love in action!**

These actions of love in **1 Cor. 13** are **modeled** by God in His relationship to us!

If we are going to “**supplement our faith with love**” then we must **imitate** God’s love.

- That means we **don’t** just **talk** about love, **sing** about love, and **study** about love, *we put love in action!*

Challenge: Make Love a Verb

To “**Supplement our Faith with Love**” means **action**:

1 Cor 13:4 “**Love is patient**”

- **Action: Patience with people**

- The Apostle Paul, who persecuted Christ-followers, after his conversion wrote: **1 Timothy 1:16** (HCSB) “But I received mercy because of this, so that in me, the worst of them, Christ Jesus might demonstrate the utmost patience as an example to those who would believe in Him for eternal life.”
 - Do you think God has been patient with you?
 - Is God not being patient with us now?
 - We “supplement our faith with love,” when we show Kindness to people!

To “Supplement our Faith with Love” means **action**:

1 Cor 13:4 “love is kind”

- Kindness to people
 - In **Romans 2:4** (HCSB) Paul asked: “Or do you despise the riches of His **kindness**, restraint, and patience, not recognizing that God’s **kindness** is intended to lead you to repentance?”
 - The fact that God hasn’t struck any of us dead is purely the result of His kindness!

- We don't deserve to live, b/c we have all thumbed our noses at God, but b/c of His kindness He has allowed us to live so as to bring about repentance!
- We “supplement our faith with love,” when we show Kindness to people!

To “Supplement our Faith with Love” means **action**:

1 Cor 13:4 “Love does not envy”

- WE don't “envy”
 - **Question:** Do you know of anywhere in Scripture where God envy's someone or something? NO.
 - God is all-sufficient; He does not need anything!
 - The **context** of this passage is Paul's letter to a church where people are wanting the SPOTLIGHT
 - There are people who envious of people who have the “upfront” gifts of teaching, healing, speaking in tongues, etc.
- We “supplement our faith with love,” when we don't envy other people!
 - We “supplement our faith with love,” when are happy for what **they have** or have

accomplished and we are **satisfied** with what God has given us.

To “**Supplement our Faith with Love**” means **action**:

1 Cor 13:4 “**Love does not boast**”

- We “**supplement our faith with love,**” when we respond to people in humility; when we don’t act like we are better than someone else.

To “**Supplement our Faith with Love**” means **action**:

1 Cor 13:4 “**love is not arrogant**”

- We are not **conceited**
 - We don’t try to act **super spiritual** or better than others
 - **Jesus**, God in the flesh, did **not** act **arrogantly**; instead on He showed love by washing the disciple’s feet!
 - Jesus said “**I did not come to be served, but to serve and give my live as a ransom from many.**”

Challenge: Make Love a Verb

To “**Supplement our Faith with Love**” means **ACTION**

1 Cor 13:5 “Love is not rude”

- WE don't not act **improperly**
 - We don't act **offensively**
 - We don't try to **force ourselves** on others

1 Cor 13:5 “Love is not self-seeking”

- We are **not selfish**;
 - We don't have a “**me first**” attitude

1 Cor 13:5 “Love is not irritable”

- We are **not provoked**;
 - We have a long fuse

1 Cor 13:5 “Love does not keep a record of wrongs”

- We **do not keep a record of wrongs**;
- Aren't you glad that God's love is displayed in forgiveness?
 - **Psalm 103:12 (HCSB)** “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

When we **make Love a Verb** we are imitating the author of love-God!

- **When we make Love a Verb** we get an understanding of the love God has shown (and is showing) to us!

We still haven't completed the list! **1 Corinthians**
13:6-8:

- (Love) finds(action) no joy in unrighteousness, but rejoices (action) in the truth;
- (Love) bears (action) *all* things,
- (Love) believes (action) *all* things,
- (Love) hopes(action) *all* things,
- (Love) endures (action) *all* things.

All of these are pictures of **love in action!**

Love is not static!

- When Peter challenges us to “**Supplement our faith with love**” all these things are involved!

To take this step We must: Make Love a Verb

WHY do we “**Supplement our faith with love**”?

Because the reason we can “**Supplement our faith with love**” is b/c **God made love a verb for us!**

(sending Jesus Christ)

- Shouldn't WE **make love a verb** for Him?

Bottom Line: If you don't “**make love a verb for God,**” you **won't supplement** your faith with “**goodness**”

- We won't obey God's moral laws if we don't love God!
 - **Jesus** said “If you love me, you will keep my commandments”

Bottom Line: If you don't “make love a verb for God,” you won't supplement your faith with “**knowledge**”

- Why take the time to learn about God, put what you know into practice, if you don't love God?

Bottom Line: If you don't “make love a verb for God,” you won't supplement your faith with “**self-control**” if you don't love God, etc.

Challenge: Make Love a Verb

The **motivation** to “**Supplement your faith**” is **Love for God!**

- The reason to “**supplement**” your faith with any of these things is “**love for God**”
 - The only reason a person *will* “**Supplement his/her faith**” is love for God!”

To **supplement our Faith with love** means we must **Make Love a Verb for God!**

- **God is the reason we must make love a verb!**

Challenge: Make Love a Verb

WHY?

- **Clarity:** When we “LOVE” we see people clearly—as people for whom Christ died
- **Stability:** When we “LOVE” we experience stability in our walk with God because we are in communion with Him; Therefore, we don’t get tossed around by every new teaching or abandon our faith with life gets difficult.
- **Productivity:** When we “LOVE” we are bearing “Fruit” and being “Useful” in God’s word because we are carrying out His command.
- **Humility:** When we “LOVE” we are willing to put others first because we are willing to sacrifice for their wellbeing.
- **Joy:** When we “LOVE” we experience joy!

YOU

PQ: Are you supplementing your faith?

- Are you going to “supplement your faith with love”?

Making love a verb requires us to **allow God** to live through us!

- It is not always easy to “**supplement your faith with love**” when it comes to **people!**

- Our interaction with people-both inside and outside the church-gives us the opportunity to **“Supplement our faith with love.”**
- It is not always easy to **“supplement your faith with love”** when it comes to **God!**
 - We can fall into the trap of doing things for **God** out of **obligation** or guilt **rather** than **“supplementing our faith with love.”**

PQ: Are you supplementing your faith?

If you will **make love a verb**, you will **“supplement your faith”** with these things!

- If you will **make love a verb**, you will experience true success in your life!

Christ-followers are called to **“Follow Christ”!**

- Following Christ means **making love a verb!**

When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was He said in **Matthew 22:37–39 (HCSB)** **“He said to him, “Love (verb) the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the greatest and most important commandment. 39 The second is like it: Love (verb) your neighbor as yourself.”**

PQ: Are you supplementing your faith?