Remember from 1 Corinthians 13 that love will last forever when everything else fades. And then, in heaven, we'll get it totally right! But for now...

The present is our practice run. The church is where we learn to love like Jesus. Yes, the church is imperfect, but Jesus loves the church and gave his life for her!

**Ephesians 5:21-30 NLT**

21 And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. 24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

25 For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. 27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. 29 No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. 30 And we are members of his body.

We often look at this passage as it relates to marriage and family, but Paul purposely chooses the picture of Christ’s love for the church to show how husbands and wives should love one another.

There is a passionate connection between Jesus and the church that drove him to the cross.

**The place to learn how to love everybody, always is in the local church.**
In the church, we **learn about** the love of Jesus together.
- In the church, we **practice** loving each other, even when it’s hard.
- As the church, we go into all the world, **loving everybody together**.

Christians can’t just casually date the church. She deserves our passionate love. And we do this “love” thing way better as a family than we do as individuals.

It’s time to get passionate.

- We prove our passion when we **gather** together.
- We prove our passion when we **grow** together.
- We prove our passion when we **give** together.
- We prove our passion when we **group up** together.
- We prove our passion when we **go** together.

Are you proving your passion? Jesus proved his on the cross!