

# Loving by the Spirit

Rom. 5.5; 1 Cor. 12

*Focus: on praying for the Spirit's needful enabling us to love one another.*

## **2016 Annual Priority:**

*To establish a greater devotion to believing and being shaped by the three great loves embedded in our mission statement's goal of becoming a mature and ministering worshiper of God; love for God, love for the church, and love of neighbor.*

## **Discussion:**

- What is your reaction to the ministry of the Spirit described in Rom. 5.3-5? How does the description of that love in places like Rom. 5.8 and John 17.26 affect you?
- What is the relationship between Rom. 5.5 and 1 John 3.23? i.e. how does God's love for us relate to our love for one another? Introduce 1 John 4.11 and 19 into this discussion.
- 1 Cor. 12.7 teaches us that the Spirit works in each of us uniquely to love and care for the church. What do each of the following sections reveal about the our role in caring for one another in the church? 12.7-11; 12.15-20; 12.21-26. Note especially any language of caring for one another.
- In light of all this, how are you aware of the Spirit at work or desiring to be at work through you to love and care for the church at NW?
- What will it look like for you to welcome and embrace God's love such that it fuels love for others? (see Paul's prayers in 2 Thess. 3.5 and 1 Thess. 3.12)

