



“For the Church: 3 Ways to Love the Church Well”

Acts 18:24-28

BIG IDEA: *We love the Church well when we hold gifted people with humility, receive correction with teachability, and celebrate God's work beyond our preferences.*

KNOW

- Read Acts 18:24–28. What strengths does the writer highlight in Apollos? What does Apollos still need to learn? What does this teach us about the relationship between giftedness and the need for more spiritual understanding?
- Paul later reminds the Corinthians that he and Apollos were simply servants through whom they believed, while God gave the growth (1 Corinthians 3:5–7). What does this teach us about how we should view gifted Christian leaders?
- Priscilla and Aquila recognize that Apollos needs correction, but instead of publicly criticizing him, they draw near to him and explain "the way of God to him more accurately" (v. 26). What can we learn from the way they corrected Apollos? How did their response reflect the heart of Christ for Apollos?

FOLLOW

- Pastor Jon said, *“The bigger someone’s platform becomes, the more tempting it is either to idolize them or demonize them.”* Which tendency are you more vulnerable to? What would biblical discernment look like instead?
- Apollos was gifted and sincere, but he still had things to learn. How do you typically respond when someone challenges your perspective or corrects you? What helps you remain teachable?
- *“Love isn’t quick to expose an issue that can be healed in private.”* Where might God be calling you to pursue a gracious conversation privately instead of criticism, gossip, or public judgment?
- Pastor Jon said, *“Influence isn’t the problem. The question is whose name you’re trying to exalt.”* Where has God given you influence? How can you steward this influence to point people toward Jesus rather than yourself?

REFLECT

- Acts 18:27 says Apollos "was a great help to those who by grace had believed." Think about a Christian, church, or ministry that is different from the style you prefer. What evidence of God's grace can you recognize and celebrate in them?
- *“Jesus’ Church is bigger than my preferred expression of Jesus’ Church.”* What personal preferences are you most tempted to treat as biblical requirements for everyone else?

- Pastor Jon said, *"I don't have to prefer your ministry to pray for your ministry."* Who could you intentionally pray for, encourage, or speak well of this week—even if their expression of ministry is different from yours?

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

- Where have criticism, suspicion, or cynicism begun shaping the way you see another Christian, leader, church, or ministry?
- How do you typically respond to correction—defensively, dismissively, or with a willingness to learn? What might your response reveal about your heart?
- Is there someone whose gifting, influence, opportunity, or success is difficult for you to celebrate? What might God be revealing in your heart through that struggle?

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Lord, give me discernment when I am tempted to...
- Lord, make me teachable when someone...
- Lord, replace my criticism or jealousy toward others with...
- Lord, help me celebrate what You are doing through...

MEMORY VERSE:

- 1 Corinthians 3:6–7 (CSB) — *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth."*