

CHURCH IN A BROKEN WORLD

Sermon: Open Hearts, Open Doors

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 16:5–24

Opening Questions

Looking back at our tendencies, how easy is it to let personal preferences or small church disagreements distract us from being part of something bigger God is doing?

"Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned." (Peter Marshall). What is one area in your life where good intent has not yet turned into action?

Digging Deeper

Read 1 Corinthians 16:5–12. How do Paul's travel plans and his care for Timothy, Apollos, and the churches show that true unity in Christ's love places Kingdom purpose above personal preferences?

Read 1 Corinthians 16:13–14 alongside 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 and Matthew 22:37–40. Why must vigilance, firmness, courage, and strength be anchored in Christlike love to avoid becoming self-righteous or divisive?

Read 1 Corinthians 16:15–20 and 1 John 3:16–18. How does the example of Stephanas and Paul's network of outward-facing partnerships illustrate that real unity in community expresses itself in practical, active love rather than mere intent?

Read 1 Corinthians 16:21–24 and James 1:22–25, 27. In closing with grace and a call to love the Lord, how does Paul challenge us to move from simply holding Bible knowledge to actively responding in faith?

Living it Out

Considering the Zero Depth, Waist Deep, and Deep End levels of engagement, where are you currently and what is one step deeper God might be calling you to take?

What is one specific, tangible step God is asking you to take this week to join the work He is already doing in our community (e.g., One Eighty, YouthHope, or serve teams)?

What daily rhythm or habit can you start today to ensure your faith moves beyond intent and translates into consistent, loving action?