

The Most Excellent Way

A Small Group Devotional

Nothing

Week 3

Read 1 Corinthians 13

"If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing."

- 1 Corinthians 13:2, NIV

Meritocracy suggests that a person's value is based on their abilities and contributions to a group, organization, or society. The more you have or are contributing the greater your value and therefore your status and compensation. In this context our value and the value of others is defined by our utility. When we succeed in this meritocracy, whether natural or spiritual, it can be easy for us to buy in to the idea that we are something simply because of what we can do.

What kinds of skills, talents, and abilities do we tend to believe gives greater value to a person or a people?

What do we believe we must do, be able to do, or be in order to be "something"?

How can rewarding people in the church for their love over their abilities promote a healthier church? What would look different? What would we do differently?

Based on what we tell each other and celebrate, what makes someone in our church "something"?