

**Unhindered  
The Book of Acts  
The Love for the Church  
Acts 20:1-17**

- **Affection.**

- The way Paul says goodbye to the church in Ephesus demonstrates his great affection for the church.
  - Philippians 1:3
    - I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you.
  - Philippians 1:7
    - It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart
  - 2 Corinthians 7:3
    - ... I have already said that you are in our hearts...
  - 1 Thessalonians 2:8
    - We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.
- The love for the church is expressed in words but is demonstrated with our service.
  - Ephesians 5:25
    - ...Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her...
  - 1 John 4:9
    - God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His One and Only Son into the world so that we might live through Him.
- Every believer has the capacity to love the church as Jesus did.
  - Romans 5:5
    - ... Because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- **Attendance.**

- When does the church meet?
  - John 20:19
    - In the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because of their fear of the Jews. Then Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!"
- Why does the church meet?
  - 1 Corinthians 11:23-25
    - On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way, after supper He also took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant established by My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
  - 1 Peter 2:2
    - Desire, as newborn children, unadulterated spiritual milk, that by it you may grow unto salvation.

- **Availability.**

- God does not desire or deserve anything less than the best of us.
  - Romans 12:2
    - So, brethren, I beg you for the mercies of God, that you present your bodies in sacrifice lived, holy, pleasing to God, which is your rational worship.