

**The One Thing:**

# The One Thing:

- City Slickers – The meaning of life
- Jesus summed up all of the commands with one. Love (Matthew 22:37f). Love is the one thing that matters most.

# The One Thing:

- Ephesians 5:1-5, “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

# The One Thing:

- Ephesians 5:1-5, “Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.” (ESV)

# The One Thing:

- POINT: We must be imitators of God: (1) By living out the love we have received in Christ, and (2) by eliminating loveless deeds that are incompatible with are identity in Christ.

# The One Thing:

- **First, we must be imitators of God by living out the love we have received in Christ.** Ephesians 5:1-5, “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (greatest way to imitate God is love; especially enemies, Mt 5:43-48; enemies – those who hurt us, often friends) (apart from the Spirit... Jen)

# The One Thing:

- **First, we must be imitators of God by living out the love we have received in Christ.**
- The continuous display of love to other believers is the epitome of what it means to be a Christian. Love is ongoing & developmental. It is the single greatest way we imitate God, & one of the most tangible ways of displaying love is forgiving other believers every time they offend us.

# The One Thing:

- **First, we must be imitators of God by living out the love we have received in Christ.**
- If believers truly love each other, none of the vices will be a problem (falsehood, bitterness, unwholesome talk, etc), and all of the other virtues will be naturally practiced. (You can only give what you have; soak in, meditate on, revelation of love) (Say yes, blessing & love)



# The One Thing:

- **Second, we must be imitators of God by eliminating loveless deeds incompatible with our identity in Christ.** Ephesians 5:3-5, “But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.”

# The One Thing:

- **Second, we must be imitators of God by eliminating loveless deeds.** Ephesians 5:3-5, “Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”

# The One Thing:

- **Second, we must be imitators of God by eliminating loveless deeds.** Ephesians 5:3-5
- Paul is primarily concerned with two loveless deeds incompatible with our identity. The first among these loveless deeds is sexual immorality; the second is greed. Both are self-centered, loveless acts.

# The One Thing:

- **Second, we must be imitators of God by eliminating loveless deeds.** Ephesians 5:3-5
- Illicit sexual activity was an enormous problem for new Gentile Christians to overcome. Adulterous relationships, men sleeping with slave girls, incest, prostitution, temple prostitution, & homosexuality were all part of every day life. There were no accepted social standards...

# The One Thing:

- **Second, we must be imitators of God by eliminating loveless deeds.** Ephesians 5:3-5
- Inappropriate sexual acts, and inappropriate sexual talk is incompatible loveless behavior. (Christian college – sensual or spiritual) (filthiness, foolish talk, crude joking – sexual in nature)

# The One Thing:

- **Second, we must be imitators of God by eliminating loveless deeds.** Ephesians 5:3-5
- The second loveless deed is greed (and covetousness). (Covet – circle) Paul equates covetousness with idolatry (v.5). Greed – idolatry. If loving God is the supreme command, loving something in the place of God is the supreme sin.

# The One Thing:

- **Second, we must be imitators of God by eliminating loveless deeds.** Ephesians 5:3-5
- If you don't check your desires (greed), eventually they rule you. Paul's antidote to sexual immorality, greed/covetousness & crude speech is THANKSGIVING – “instead let there be thanksgiving” (v.4). Why?

# The One Thing:

- **Second, we must be imitators of God by eliminating loveless deeds.** Ephesians 5:3-5
- An ungrateful person is one step away from attempting to get their needs met in illegitimate ways. You don't believe God will meet your needs, so you take matters into your own hands. Gratitude reminds you of who you are, whose you are, your identity & inheritance.



# The One Thing:

- The soul has a greedy, restless, insatiable appetite. We have to come to Jesus; we have to let the Bread of life, and living Water satisfy our souls. We have to soak in His love, hold on to who we are in Christ, so that we will not behave in loveless ways. But, filled with His love, & filled with His Spirit, we can love like Jesus.