



# Love is a Many-Splendored Thing

## *Climate Change Toward a Flourishing Love*

1 Corinthians 1:20-2:5

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### **A Drought Metaphor**

What higher temps do to soil and water supplies

What an atmosphere of pretend and sufficiency does to a love-one another culture

### **A Flourishing Love-One-Another Climate Described**

Vulnerability and honesty around needs, weaknesses, struggles, fears

Contagious and creates a safe zone for giving and receiving

My mom at the gas station

Daring to see my own heart as a road map to yours

12-step groups and at the San Quentin Protestant chapel

### **The Corinthian Community Paul is Shaping**

1. Shared reality of deficiency: 1 Cor 1:26-29

2. Equal recipients of the crazy grace of the cross of Jesus: 1 Cor 1:23-34, 30-31

3. God's preference to work through "the things that are not": 1 Cor 1:28

4. An understanding that God gets the glory in this way: 1 Cor 25, 29, 31

Paul names his own fear, trembling weakness: 1 Cor 2:1-4 (see also 2 Cor 12:7-10)

### **The Difference Between a Vulnerable Culture and a Wallowing Culture**

But aren't we supposed to grow in maturity and not remain perpetually "weak"?

Jesus has called us on a journey of progressive wholeness

While our boast always remains in the Lord: 1 Cor 1:31; John 15:5

A look at my own life reinforces the notion against "arriving" on this side

The nature of climbing: slow up, fast down!

Humility remains warranted from the vantage point of cliff dwellers

A 30-year sober man still introduces himself as an alcoholic

The paradox of great spiritual maturity as awareness of the near-by edge

### **Climate Change Toward a Flourishing Love**

***"We believe in the beauty of vulnerability through the practice of transparency and honesty."***

Kindness, deference, careful listening, refusing to judge each tailor-made love story

A community's climate is shaped by vulnerability pioneers

Who among us will dare initiate the imitation of Paul and Jesus in this regard?

