

**Series: Upon His Shoulder**

**Message Title: Less is More**

**Key Scriptures: Isaiah 9:1-7**

**Scripture reading:** 1 Corinthians 3:1-7

**Other Scriptures:** Genesis 1:28, John 3:30, Luke 18:18-30, Matthew 22:37-40, 1 Cor 13

**Message Summary:** Concluding sermon series- UPON HIS SHOULDERS based on the prophesy in Isaiah 9:1-7 and particularly exploring by exploring the issue of Increase/greatness/growth. In the context of despairing times God is enlarging his people. It has always been his plan where his kingdom is concerned to increase. The more you allow the revelation of the nature, person, and work of Jesus the larger you become and the more the greater the body of Christ becomes. However, what if our increase is really a decrease? If Gods kingdom increases how does that work in individuals? And if it is God himself who provides the growth, then what is the role of the individual and of the body?

**How does applying this message affect our:**

**Fellowship** – Jesus is making himself “a body”, a collective of people that work together to bring about the growth of his kingdom and its influence. We heard in the message that we have a personal responsibility to engage individually with the Holy Spirit for their own growth first and shape them in such a way that they can connect with others. As we grow, the whole body grows and it's impact is greater. So this desire to grow should not be just for my sake, but for the sake of the whole body. The challenge for each one of us is therefore to love one another enough to want increase/ growth for the sake of each other. So How do you love?

**Discipleship** – Love God, love yourself, love your neighbour. This is Jesus’ answer to growth- Love has to be the motivation as well as the propeller of the growth of the kingdom of God. It is the active aspect of how we relate to each other and the world around us. If we have no love, nothing else that we do, say or act matters at all- it produces nothing without love. So then, to you as an individual I ask the question- How do you love?- How about you spend some time this week to use 1 Cor 13 as a mirror and examine your life of Love in Christ Jesus!

**Ministry** – Remember you cannot carry the glory of God except you have lay down your own burdens- The Israelites priests who carried the Arc of the covenant did not carry anything else on their shoulders- nothing else- so let's revisit the invitation to lay down heavy burdens and instead take on Christ’s yoke, which is lighter. We need to be secure in all that Jesus Christ is and be confident that in Him we will always have increase!

**Evangelism** – A question for all to consider both those who know Jesus and those still seeking-Have you surrendered all of your self- reliance, self governance to Christ? Are you walking a life of Love in your relationship with Jesus and with others?

**Worship** – Intentionally take some time out to review your life- what areas do you need to allow yourself to decrease so that Jesus may increase in you?- Romans 12:1 urges us to make this surrender of ourselves to God in light of all he has done for us- because this is a sacrifice he will accept and says this is truly the way to worship Him.