

The Way

Pastor David Uth

Passage: Romans 12:9-13

9Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit serve the Lord. 12Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Background

In Romans chapter 12, Paul has already described how a life surrendered to God is a life transformed through a new way of thinking. The way we think about God, ourselves, and others will influence the way we live daily. Paul goes on to show how this plays out in how we use our gifts within the life of the church, how we treat other believers, and how we treat those who may oppose us. In this passage this morning, Pastor David will elaborate on Paul's 13 exhortations to the believers in Rome for living a life of 'genuine love' towards other believers.

Service Notes

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- Where can you see God at work in your life right now? How can we pray for you today?

Talk it Over

- **Read Romans 12:9-10.** What does it mean to let our love be genuine/sincere? How does this instruction flow out of the previous verses? How does hypocritical ‘love’ show up in the church sometimes? How can we guard against insincere ‘love’? What does it look like to ‘abhor evil’ and ‘hold fast’ to what is good? Why is it so difficult to “despise” some sins and not ALL sin, especially in our own lives? What’s one way we can look inward at our own sins before calling out the sin of others? How did Jesus model a genuine love in his interactions with others? What do you think Paul means for believers to “outdo” others in showing honor to each other? What would this look like in our culture today?
- **Read Matthew 7:1-5 and Matthew 23:37-38.** How do these passages help us understand Paul’s instructions to have genuine love/abhor evil/hold fast to what is good? How do these passages help us find balance between dealing with our own sins and the evil we see around us? In what ways did the religious leaders of Jesus’ time demonstrate hypocritical ‘love’? How should Jesus’ respond to the religious leaders teach us how to live (see Matt. 23)? How does a healthy small group/community experience help us live this out?
- **Read Romans 12:11-13.** Paul’s instruction in these verses is about keeping our passion for serving Christ and serving others. How do the instructions in verse 12 (rejoice, be patient, constant prayer) help fuel our passion for serving Christ? What are some of the reasons it can be so easy to grow weary or lazy in our passion for Christ and serving others in the local church? How does serving Christ and others even when we “don’t” feel like it” revive that passion? What is one way you can live out Paul’s instruction to meet needs and show hospitality this week (vs 13)?

Live it Out

- Which one of the 13 exhortations do you need to focus on this week? In what ways can you practice Paul’s encouragement to “abhor evil” and “hold fast” to what is good this week?