

Sermon: I Put Others' Needs Above My Own

Text: Romans 12:9-21

Pastor Matt Gish

Discussion:

- When do you find it the easiest to love others? When is it most difficult?
- Where do Christians in North America have the greatest need – learning to love those within the church or those outside the church?
- How does the church's practice of love influence how the world thinks about the God of love?
- What is the greatest example of self-sacrificing love that you have experienced in your own life or seen in the life of someone you know?

Examination:

- Verse 9
 - Why is sincerity important in love?
 - How does a Christian hate what is evil and cling to what is good?

Love for Fellow Believers:

- **We are Devoted in Love (Vs 10)**
 - Describe what it looks like for a church to be devoted to one another in love.
- **We Honor Others Above Ourselves (Vs10)**
 - What are some practical ways that you can honor other believers above yourself?
- **We Serve Enthusiastically (Vs 11)**
 - What connection do you think Paul is making between serving the Lord and loving others?
- **We Persevere Through Trials (Vs12)**
 - What trials are believers in our midst facing today?
 - How do we as believers persevere together?
- **We are Generous (Vs 13)**
 - What does a life marked by hospitality and generosity look like?

Loving Those Who Don't Know Christ:

- **We Bless and Do Not Curse (Vs 14)**
 - Have you ever experienced persecution for your faith? In what ways? How did you respond?

- What does it look like for a believer to bless someone who is actively against them?
- **We are Present with Others (Vs 15)**
 - “One way of proving to ourselves that our hearts are in the right place is to identify with other persons, so that we not only weep with those who weep but even rejoice with those who rejoice; and this not only with fellow-believers but with all those with whom we enter into a relationship of relative closeness, be they believers or unbelievers. If we truly love our neighbor as we love ourselves (Luke 10:27), this should be possible.” *(From: Exposition of Paul’s Epistle to the Romans. Vol.12-13)*
 - Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Why?
 - What does it look like for believers to rejoice and mourn with non-believers?
- **We are Humble (Vs 16)**
 - What do you think Paul means when he says “be willing to associate with people of low position”?
 - In what ways can Christians be viewed as proud or conceited by the world? Do you feel that these are accurate views?
 - How can Christians demonstrate humbleness to the world and still stand for truth?
- **We Overcome Evil with Good (Vs 17-21)**
 - What does it look like to “live at peace with everyone”? Why do you think Paul adds in the qualifier, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you”?
 - What are some subtle forms of revenge-seeking that Christians practice against those who have “harmed” them?
 - How is seeking revenge detrimental to our witness for Christ?
 - Do you find it difficult to not seek revenge and leave it in God’s hands? Why or why not?
 - What are some practical ways that a Christian can bless their enemies?

Application:

- In which area(s) of loving others are you strongest? Which area(s) do you need the Lord’s help to grow? What steps can you take this week to put others needs above your own and grow in love?