



Bible Study: Romans 12:9-21

Reflect

Reflecting on the talk from Romans 12: 9-21 – what did God say to you? How were you encouraged, challenged? Was there anything you didn't understand.

Digging Deeper

From our passage here is a list of things the Apostle Paul says a Spirit filled, Jesus focused community should do. As a starter to our conversation – which is the most challenging for you.

1. Love must be sincere
2. Hate what is evil
3. Cling to what is good
4. Be devoted to one another
5. Honour one another above yourself
6. Never be lacking in zeal; keep spiritual fervour serving the Lord
7. Be joyful in hope
8. Be patient in affliction
9. Be faithful in prayer
10. Share with God's people in need
11. Practice hospitality
12. Bless those who persecute you
13. Bless and do not curse
14. Rejoice with those who rejoice
15. Mourn with those who mourn
16. Live in harmony with one another
17. Do not be proud

v9 says “let love be genuine or sincere” – literally, “unhypocritical” or “not play-acted.”

What is the difference between genuine and “play-acted” love?

What will be the effects on a community where people’s love for one another is genuine?

Where it is play-acted? Have we ever been recipients of these kinds of love? When?

What is “honor” (v10) How do we show honor to others? To whom do we show honor?

What do we think it means, practically, to “outdo one another in showing honor”?

What do we think it means to “serve the Lord” (v11)? Do we think of some activities as “serving the Lord” and others as not serving the Lord?

“Serving the Lord” is linked in this verse with “zeal” What does that tell us about our attitude towards “serving”?

What does it mean to “contribute to the needs of the saints”? What does it mean “show hospitality to strangers” (literally, to “pursue the love of foreigners”)?

How do we “contribute” and “show hospitality,” practically speaking?

Several instructions concern retaliation or how to deal with people who persecute or harm us (vv14, 17-20). What have been our experiences with trying to follow these instructions?

How do these instructions relate to letting love be genuine in the way we relate towards outsiders?

What is the one takeout for you from this passage?