



# ROMANS

Strong faith for life



Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

● We belong in **Spiritual Community**.

5 ...so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts... Romans 12:5-6 (NIV)

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:9-13 (NIV)

● **Love** must define our spiritual community.

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:8

35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

**Love is not:**

- Love is not a **feeling** or an **emotion**.

**Love is:**

- Love is a **choice** followed by an **action**.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 1 John 4:9

**A gospel-shaped love in Spiritual Community:**

9 Love must be sincere. Romans 12:9a

- Our love is **genuine**.

"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony." Colossians 3:13-14 (NLT)

**When your love is not sincere:**

- Choose to love and **repent** of the feelings within.

...Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Romans 12:9b

- Our love **looks** for the good and **rejects** what is evil.

Despise evil; pursue what is good as if your life depends on it. Romans 12:9b (Voice)

All who fear the Lord will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech. Proverbs 8:13

You who love the Lord, hate evil! Psalm 97:10

**This is key:**

What we say and do must **communicate** truth and love.

10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10

- Our love feels like **family**.

We are **committed** to caring for each other.

11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:11-12

- Our love is filled with the **expectancy** of God's activity.

1 We who are strong in the faith ought to help the weak to carry their burdens... Romans 15:1

13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13

- Our love expresses itself in **tangible** actions.

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## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- How would you define Spiritual Community? (Hint: it's more than attending Church) How important is Spiritual Community? How important is it to you?
- Why does love have to define Spiritual Community?
- Why does the gospel shape our love? In what ways does the gospel shape our love.
- What does a genuine love look like to you? What does it look like to Paul?
- Why is it important that we repent of the feelings that keep us from loving others?
- What does it mean to you to "Hate what is evil and cling to what is good"?
- Why does Spiritual Community reflect family? How do we love like a healthy family?
- How do we love when we expect God to work in the lives of others?
- Why are tangible expressions of love important in Spiritual Community?

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Today's Talk..



**ROMANS**

Strong faith for life

How we live in Spiritual Community.

Sunday, September 8th, 2024

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