

dedicated to:

Community Group Discussion Guide

June 22, 2014

Week 3 | Real Love
Romans 12:9-21

Read Romans 12:9-21 before answering the following questions.

Questions for Study

Introduction

The book of Romans can be divided into two major sections. The first eleven chapters are devoted to explaining the truth about God and the truth about us. Included in these chapters is how it's possible for each one of us to have a relationship with God. They show us that God's holy, just and loving. They also show us our own spiritual need because of our sinfulness, pointing us to God's grace through Jesus Christ.

In the 12th chapter Paul begins applying this truth to our lives. He shows the difference it can and should make in how we think and in what we say and do. The first of those differences is for us to have an eagerness to serve and to do this with passion. The second of those differences is the dedication we're to have to love people in real and tangible ways.

1. Reflect back on your own life to those times when another person did or said something that was loving that impacted your life for good. (If you're part of a Community Group doing this study, take time to share with each other.)
2. Paul begins the 12th chapter with these words...*"Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship."* After reading what Paul wrote about loving others in verses 9 through 21, why is "offering yourself as a living sacrifice" an appropriate description for what Paul is urging us to do?
3. The first sentence in verse 9 - "Love must be sincere." - is the goal or target for us to put in front of ourselves. Write down what it means for love to be sincere.
4. With the above as our goal or target, what Paul writes in the verses that follow show us how to make this happen. Read through verses 9-21 and write down each one of the things we need to do to achieve this goal, to hit the target. List each one in one sentence or one phrase.
5. Once you've completed question #4, go back and write down every thing you see that Paul said about each one. In doing this, answer the question "why" - why does each one achieve the goal/hit the target of real love?
6. Now that you've done all of the above, write down how you will apply this passage to your own life in loving other people?