

Home Group Questions

the week of 10/29/2017

Romans 12:9-12

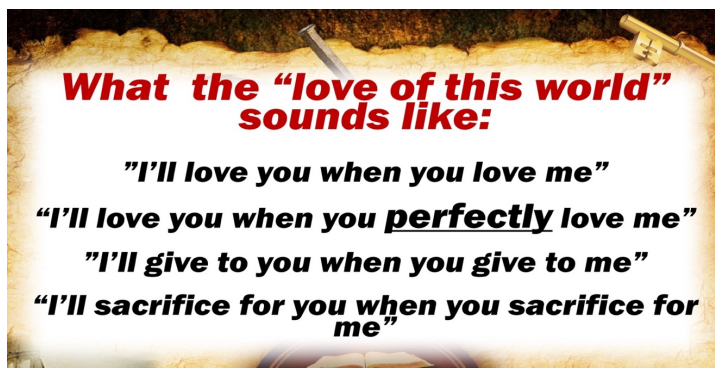
AUTHENTIC LOVE

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on Romans chapters 12-16. This sermon focused on Romans 12:9-12, which addresses the teaching of unconditional love.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Romans 12:9-12. Pastor Mel shared that our love needs to be “authentic”, “without hypocrisy”. That we need to give a “tune up” to our hearts and minds to make sure that our love for others is operating in the way that God wants it to. The Greek word “agape” is used here, it stands for “unconditional love”. What do you think of when you hear those words? If someone loves you unconditionally what does that look like? How is that different from the love of the world (look at the chart below as a way to start your thinking).



The passage states that we are to “abhor (hate) what is evil” and “hold fast” to what is good (v. 10). Why is hate a good thing...how does that hate keep us from getting sucked into things that we shouldn't be involved in? What does “holding fast” imply about our attitude toward good things in our lives?

Read through the rest of the qualities listed in verse 10. Which one of these qualities challenges your heart the most when it comes to putting your love into action.

The passage speaks about “outdoing” one another in showing honor. Pastor Mel shared what that can look like below:



How does honoring one another strengthen the body of Christ? What does it convey about the freedom we have to give honor to others.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. Obviously this is a familiar passage, but have the group share which of these qualities do they feel “strongest” in...and which do they feel is the one that is most difficult for them to live out and why?

3. Head back to Romans 12:11-12. Read Pastor's Mel's list of ways in which we can demonstrate our authentic love for God. Each item corresponds to the qualities listed in verses 11-12. How can we apply these qualities in real life situations with our family (i.e you show you're an enthusiastic fan of God's to your kids when you're excited to go to church on Sunday).

- A. Be an “enthusiastic fan” of God.
- B. Be intentional about your ongoing connection to Jesus.
- C. Be aware that whatever good you do, you do for the Lord.
- D. Have confidence in God's sovereignty to ultimately save.
- E. See God's purposes behind the difficulties of life.
- F. Develop ongoing communication with the Father.

MOVING FORWARD... Pray that God would duplicate His love in your life!!