

**Sermon:** Christianity and Community.  
**Series:** *Exploring Christianity*

**Scripture:** Romans 12:9-16.  
**Date:** August 22, 2021

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1) What does this passage teach us about us?**

a) Romans 12:9 tells us to love each other genuinely (without hypocrisy). What might need to change in your heart for you to love others genuinely?

b) Read 12:14-16 again. Paul reminds us that the biggest obstacle to our genuine love is not our differences but our pride. How has pride kept you from loving others?

**2) What does this passage teach us about God?**

a) Go back and read Romans 12:1. Paul introduces this section with the phrase “by the mercies of God.” How does our love for each other reflect the mercy and forgiveness of God?

**3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

a) How do the commands in Romans 12:9-16 point to the earthly life of Jesus?

b) Why is it only possible to love others like Romans 12:9-16 commands when we first accept God’s love for us in Christ?

**APPLICATION**

a) As you read the commands of Romans 12:9-16 where is the Holy Spirit nudging you/convicting you? What commitments would you like to see strengthened in your life?

b) How can we as a group/church do better at obeying the commands of Romans 12:9-16?

**FIGHTER VERSES: Ephesians 4:1-6.**

**PRAYER**

- Praise God for his genuine love for us in Christ.
- Confess ways that your pride and hypocrisy have prevented genuine love in your life.
- Ask God to empower your love by his own love for you.