

**Sermon: We Gather for Community.**  
**Series: *Gathering and Scattering***

**Scripture: Romans 12:9-16.**  
**Date: September 15, 2024**

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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 God?**

a) Romans 12:9-16 is a list of commands for us, the church, but what character traits of God does this list also reveal?

**2. What does this passage teach us about us?**

a) How would you define genuine love? Besides with God/Jesus where have you experienced genuine, non-hypocritical love?

b) What needs to change in your life so that you can love others in the church more genuinely?

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

a) Jesus obeyed each of the commands in verses 9-16 (review the ways that he obeyed). Why is it so important that we first understand Jesus as our Savior who obeyed these commands in our place before we try to live out these commands in community?

b) How does the love we have from God in Christ allow us to be free from the pride, self-promotion, and self-defending that get in the way of this "genuine love?"

**APPLICATION**

a) As a group, talk through the primary commands in this passage. Where do you see this group growing? Falling short? How can you actively fulfill these commands together?

1. V. 9. Showing genuine love. Is this group open and honest?
2. V. 9. Hating evil and loving the good. Does this group confront sin while also encouraging right living?
3. V.10. Showing honor. Does this group point out the positive and honorable in your life?
4. V.11. Fervently serving. Does this group serve each other? The church?
5. V. 12. Rejoice. Patient. Prayer. Does this group help each other persevere through suffering? Does it pray for each other?
6. V. 13. Contributing to needs. Do you know each other's physical and emotional needs?
7. V. 15. Rejoicing and weeping. Is this group actively celebrating wins and lamenting losses together (without hypocrisy)?
8. V. 16. Living in harmony. Does this group get along with each other, even outside of the scheduled group time? Is there any unresolved conflict?

**PRAYER**

- Thank God for pouring his love into us so that we can genuinely love one another.
- Confess ways that you have failed to love genuinely without hypocrisy.
- Thank Jesus for obeying each of these commands in our place, as our savior.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to live out genuine love from your union with Christ.