

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with  
one another in our homes

CG Questions

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Romans 12:9-21

Sermon: Ted Rastatter

Questions: Marc Agee

Main Point: Conformity to Christ Happens in Community

- We Grow Together
- We Do Life Amidst Enemies

Part One

One of the biggest threats to the Church is our ambition and dreams taking the place of Jesus's design. We must sacrifice our dreams and our self-love in deference to being conformed to Christ and his purpose for his people by taking up our cross, dying to self, and going out to make obeyers and glorifiers of Christ. We are not loving people by "not judging" or by telling people to be themselves and do what makes them happy. We love others by judging through the Word what is righteous and what is the will of God. We do this together, not alone; after all, Paul's letters were written to *communities*, not to individuals.

1. What expectations have you had when you think of "church" and what it's supposed to be? What trends do we see in modern "pop-culture Christianity" churches? What ambitions or dreams do you see in yourself or in our church that are a hindrance to our church carrying out Christ's commission?
2. What ambitions or dreams do you need to lay down so that you can take up your cross and be part of the church pursuing Christ's purpose?
3. Romans 12:9-13 has many commands that are applicable to individuals which will create a winsome God-honoring community. Take a moment to focus on one of those admonishments and discuss one that you need to take up, and how you will do that.

## Part Two

The Christian community will never be a perfectly well-adjusted, climate-controlled greenhouse. Instead, we grow together in friction against one another. Not only this, but we exist in friction with a world that rejects Christ, within that world and not apart from it. In other words, we are instructed time and time again in the Bible to engage with the world that rejects us and rejects Christ. For if we love those who love us and who are like us, what reward is there? And they will know we are Christians by our love, so they must be able to see our love and experience it.

4. Think about times when Christ encountered his enemies. Try and find the reference and read it if you can. How did he respond to rejection and friction? What about the apostles in Acts?
5. Think about modern examples of Christians choosing to live faithfully amidst enemies. What makes their church experience different than a church who doesn't love amidst enemies? How can we make sure our church is seeking out engagement with a world that hates and rejects us?
6. Romans 12:14-21 give more commands, but this time about living amongst enemies. Take a moment as a group to focus on one of these principles and discuss how our church can apply it so that we are following Christ's example and purpose.