



THE COMPELLING COMMUNITY  
EIGHT TRUTHS TO HELP YOU LOVE THE BODY | APRIL 12, 2026

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## INTRODUCTION

Hope in God's promised \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 15:13) empowers joy-filled peace among the diverse children of God in the church through the power of the Spirit, and as this shadow of our future comes into focus, we abound in hope.

## EIGHT TRUTHS TO HELP YOU LOVE THE BODY

### 1. Truth #1: Insistence on unity displays the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Romans 15:5-6).

At times, all you can see of your church with the naked eye is disagreement, dissension, and turmoil. But through faith, we have \_\_\_\_\_ that God is painting a portrait of His glory far more stunning than if everyone were on the same page to begin with.

If we can recover the biblical priority of the local church as a \_\_\_\_\_ of God's glory — and beyond that, the pleasure and power of reflecting His glory — we will recover new appreciation, patience, perspective, and even enthusiasm for love that's hard.

### 2. Truth #2: Impossible love flows from impossible \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 12:1).

When God asks you to love beyond your own strength, He also gives hope that the \_\_\_\_\_ behind your love is not your own virtue but His own inexhaustible mercies.

Easy love rarely shows off \_\_\_\_\_ power. But love that stretches beyond what's possible is a stage set to display the glory of God.

If we are to love the “unlovables” in our church, we must begin to grasp how unlovable \_\_\_\_\_ were when Christ chose to set His love on us, and how unlovable we remain today even as we are secure in His love. Having lost sight of God's mercy, our hearts are deficient in gratitude, and so our love is deficient in power.

### 3. Truth #3: Disunity at church \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus (Romans 12:2).

Because God has staked the reputation of His dear Son on the \_\_\_\_\_ of your church, you can take hope that what He is doing in your church really is “good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2).

The secret to loving each other as Christ has loved us is loving Him for how He has loved us — and not wanting anything to detract from the glory of His love. A love for Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ in your church fosters love for your church.

**4. Truth #4: You \_\_\_\_\_ together (Romans 12:4-5).**

In God's providence, the words "members one of another" (Romans 12:5) are an invitation, offering hope that, as you continue to seek \_\_\_\_\_ together as a church, you will discover how suited you really are for each other.

Because Christ gave \_\_\_\_\_ for others in your church (even the ones that are difficult to love), you belong to them, and so in giving of yourself to them, there's a special kind of joy. As you seek to love — not just because you should, but because in Christ you belong together — there is a sweetness in friendship that's unmatched in the world outside.

**5. Truth #5: Hope in God creates \_\_\_\_\_ for others (Romans 12:9-12).**

Hope in God's \_\_\_\_\_ for "those people" is the road to joy in "those people" — the joy Jesus experiences in His love for you.

Trust God that even in the weakness and difficulty of others, He is painting a magnificent portrait of His glory, and pray that hope in His greater purposes will invest your love with \_\_\_\_\_.

**6. Truth #6: Divine justice empowers full \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 12:17-19).**

Just as God's mercy empowers love, God's justice empowers \_\_\_\_\_. His perfect justice offers hope that your forgiveness of others can be the full and glorious "anti-fair" forgiveness of God.

Forgiveness is a significant way in which our relationships at church reflect the glory of God. Our church was designed to reflect Jesus' perfect character, so we can take pleasure in knowing that our forgiveness is demonstrating the \_\_\_\_\_ of His.

**7. Truth #7: People you dislike often act in \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 14:6-7).**

Yes, your church may be brimming with disagreements over what is right and what is just. But their faith in Christ provides hope that even convictional disagreement is no barrier to genuine friendship and \_\_\_\_\_.

We often presume the \_\_\_\_\_ of motives in those we disagree with. That suggests that only evil motives could lead someone to look at the same facts we do and arrive at a different conviction. But godly people frequently look at the same facts and come to different convictions.

**8. Truth #8: We will \_\_\_\_\_ to God (Romans 14:10).**

God's promise to judge gives hope that what is \_\_\_\_\_ will one day be beyond dispute. This means that in disagreements over "disputed matters" in the church (Romans 14:1), we need not quarrel but can act in love.

As we "welcome" (Romans 15:7) those who disagree with us because Christ has welcomed them, God's glory shines more brightly than if we never \_\_\_\_\_ in the first place.