

**December 31, 2023**

**Sermon: Love for the Household of Faith**

**Key Texts: *John 15:12, I Thessalonians 3:12, John 13:34-35***

**Discussion Guide:**

- The 1st century Church was composed of a variety of people. What does *Galatians 3:28* tell us?
  - What are some differences we may encounter today?
  - And how might those differences be obstacles to mutual love?
  - Judging a book by its cover is a common mistake. What steps can we take to avoid being swayed by appearances?
    - Discuss an instance when you experienced appearances being completely misleading.
  - We all have opinions. What are the implications of *Romans 14:22*?
  - How can we be at peace with following this verse's direction?
  - Some respond to another believer's stumble very harshly. What are the dangers of responding with hard attitudes?
    - What approaches better reflect God's will?
    - How does remembering how much God has forgiven us guide us in forgiving others?
  - When Saul mistreated the Church, Jesus said, why do you persecute me? What does that statement tell us about Christ's relationship with His Church?
    - Read *Philemon 4-5*. How does the inclusion of "love for ALL the saints" challenge us?
    - What are ways we can show our children love for all of our spiritual family?
    - If we feel that we're already loving our fellow believers, what are some ways we can increase our love for one another?