



“More Than a Feeling”
Romans 12:15
Romans 12: Devoted to Service

Romans 12:15, Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

1. Empathy is not an option.

Hebrews 4:15 “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are yet without sin.”

John 13:34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

2. Empathy is a way to show love.

Romans 12:9a “Let love be genuine...”

John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

Philippians 2:3 “Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”

3. Empathy is not ultimately about you.

Philippians 2:4 “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

1 Corinthians 12:26 “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

4. Empathy requires action.

James 2:15-16 "If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?"

Galatians 6:10 "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

5. Empathy is about the connection not the solution.

Galatians 6:2, Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Discussion Questions and Action Items:

1. What did you find new, helpful, or confusing about today's message?
2. How would you define sympathy and empathy in your own words? How would you explain the difference between them?
3. Is it easier for you to empathize with those who are rejoicing or weeping? Why?
4. When was a time when someone shared in your celebration or difficulty?
5. When was a time you shared in someone else's celebration or difficulty?
6. What are some steps you can take to grow in this area?