

MAY 22 | 2022

when in

ROME

WEEK 23 | ROM. 12:9-21

HOPE, HUGS, HUSTLE, HOSPITALITY & THE OCCASIONAL HEAPING OF HOT COALS

“The person who loves their *dream* of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them like Christ will create community.”

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together* (1939)

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. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

– John 13:35

Love Inside

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

– Romans 12: 9 - 13

Christian Love is: **sincere** (not hypocritical), **moral** (not oblivious to sin), **committed** (not flaky), **energetic** (not lazy), **spirit-led** (not flesh-driven), **expressive** (not bashful), **prayerful** (not silent), **generous** (not greedy).

Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

– Romans 5:5

Love Outside

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

– Romans 12: 14 - 21

“Through the gospel, Christian love becomes the most unbiased thing possible. Both our knowledge of our sin and our knowledge of our acceptance destroy prejudice and pride of race, class, vocation, etc.”

– Dr. Timothy Keller, *Romans for You* (2014)