

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 11/12/2023

Romans 12:9-16 One Another

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- God has given us spiritual gifts for one reason only: to show love
- Paul continues that thought in **Verse 9**
 - Love must be sincere, genuine, undisguised, not pretend.
 - **What does pretend love look like?**
 - Evil = the absence of goodness; the opposite of what God intended His creation to be.
 - **What does evil love look like? Does it shock you? Do you hate it?**
 - Cling to the ways God loves: He first loved us (1 John 4:19), As I have love you, you must love one another (John 13:34-35), Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13)
 - Evil or pretend love is all about what I get out of the love relationship.
 - Genuine/Sincere love is all about the other person: the way God loves.
 - The word love is "agape": benevolent, charitable, selfless love
 - Verse 9 paraphrase: **Selfless love must be selfless, hate selfishness, cling to selflessness.**
- How do I love sincerely? **Verse 10** Devoted: like a parent loves a child and vice versa
 - Honor: value others more than yourself
- **Verse 11** Paul is saying don't get lazy, stay on fire for Jesus by loving sincerely.
 - It's hard to love that way. **People who are on-fire for Jesus do hard things**
 - **Verse 12** Be devoted
 - **Verse 13** Honor and be devoted
 - **Verse 14** Honor
 - **Verse 15** Be devoted and honor
 - **How do you see the ways of being devoted and honoring others in verses 12-15 play out in your life?**
- **Verse 16** When we are devoted to one another and we honor one another, we will live in harmony with one another.
- **One another = reciprocity**
 - Think of one another as a verb too. Loving sincerely, doing the hard things.
 - If we are to one another one another, we need another!
 - **Talk about how you one another in your Connect Group. How can you start if you haven't. How can you grow if you have.**
 - **Are you doing the hard things with the people in your Connect Group?**
- **It's a circle or maybe a spiral:**
 - People who love sincerely are on fire for Jesus. People who are on fire for Jesus do hard things. People who do hard things love sincerely and, therefore, stay on fire.

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Am I willing to do the hard things to love sincerely?
2. Am I willing to allow others into my life so I can share my life with others. (i.e., Am I willing to one another one another?)

We need each other to stay on-fire for Jesus!