



**The New Way of Belonging
July 28, 2019**

¹ *In view of God's mercy...*

offer your bodies as a living sacrifice...

² *Do not conform to the pattern of this world,...*

but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

⁵ *so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

Romans 12:9-21

⁹ *Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.* ¹⁰ *Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.* ¹¹ *Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.* ¹² *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.* ¹³ *Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

¹⁴ *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.* ¹⁵ *Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.* ¹⁶ *Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*

¹⁷ *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.* ¹⁸ *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.* ¹⁹ *Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.* ²⁰ *On the contrary:*

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹ *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Home/Group Study

"Jesus talked to His friends a lot about how we should identify ourselves. He said it wouldn't be what we said we believed or all the good we hoped to do someday. Nope, He said we would identify ourselves simply by how we loved people. It's tempting to think there is more to it, but there's not. Love isn't something we fall into; love is someone we become."

— Bob Goff, Everybody, Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People

1. Practically speaking, how can you express faith through love?
2. What does sincere love look and feel like? How do you know if your love for another is sincere? How do you know if another's love for you is sincere?
3. What does it mean to hate what is evil? How can people called to love hate anything?
4. Why is it so easy to cling to the evil things in life instead of the good things?
5. Who are the people in your immediate proximity to love? In what ways can you love them fearlessly, furiously, and unreasonably?