



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS for Sunday, May 5, 2024

Series: Now What?

Sermon Title: “ Love Beyond Limits”

Pastor: Pastor Mike Kenyon

Primary Text: Romans 12:9-21

Additional Texts: Romans 12:1-2; Deut. 32:35; Prov. 25:21-22

Theme/Concept

Paul implores believers to sincerely love others, showing genuine affection and honor. Love advocates for a life of humility, blessing those who persecute, rejoicing with those who rejoice, and weeping with those who weep. Overcoming evil with good, encouraging peace and harmony within communities, and leaving justice to the Lord are characteristics of believers who practice love.

Icebreaker (for groups)

Share a time when you unexpectedly received kindness and love from someone. How did you feel and how did you respond at the time?

Reflections on the sermon: _What insights did you hear from Pastor Mike? What were your take-aways from the sermon?

Scripture Passage: Romans 12:9 - 21 (NIV)

Love in Action

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.^[a] 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,”^[b] 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.”^[c]

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

Reviewing the Scripture:

1. What standards for love did the Apostle Paul provide in verses 9 - 10? What should we hate?
2. In verse 11 we find instructions for how believers are to work for the Lord. What are they?
3. How are we to bestow love in practical ways, as described in verses 12 - 13? What makes it genuine?
4. According to verses 14 - 15 how are believers to communicate with others and respond in our communities?
5. In view of God's mercy to us, how are we to live with others as found in verse 16? (also refer to Romans 12:1 - 2).
6. In verses 17 - 18 Paul implored believers to sincerely love others in difficult circumstances. Why is this necessary for our character and witness? What situations did Paul describe?
7. Summarize verses 19-20 in your own words regarding sincerely loving others. Refer also to Deuteronomy 32:35 and Proverbs 25:21-22.
8. How did the Apostle conclude this passage in verse 21?

Going Deeper:

1. How would you share with someone the motivations and reasons that you practice love, as found in Paul's letter in verses 9 - 11?
2. What characteristics will people see in believers who sincerely apply verses 12 - 16 to their lives?
3. Where do you see God's justice in the world according to verses 17 - 21 in Paul's letter?
4. How is the mercy of the Lord shown by the Apostle in verses 13 - 21?
5. How can we hate evil, yet not the evildoer that affects us?

Closing Prayer: Our Dear Heavenly Father, great is your faithfulness in how you have provided our Salvation through the Lord Jesus. Thank you for your love and mercy in our lives, which we see and experience every day. Help us, Lord, to genuinely love others around us in practical ways, even in difficult times. Sovereign Lord, we desire that our lives be pleasing to you and bring honor to you. We put our trust in you and we praise you.

In Jesus' name, -Amen-

Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Ponder the consistency of love and patience in your life. Pray about how you personally handle injustices and the behavior of others toward you. Ask the Lord to help you genuinely love others in these challenging times.
2. Whom do you need to live at peace with in your life?