

Transformed by Grace

Romans 12:9-15

How do we live out the gospel? How do we show lives who have been transformed?

How do we show gospel love to Christ's Body?

-Last week we saw that **A.** we *have to* have a right (biblical) perspective of our own lives (hearts)/of the world: =we need a **right Gospel Lens** to truly see ourselves: **reality** -To not think too highly of ourselves = "**I'm Third**"

-**B.** That we belong to Jesus and to His Church (to love and serve Her): =Using Spiritual gifts!

Main Point: To love Jesus fully, we must learn to love what He loves (Jesus loves His Ch.)

-**In a new relationship, we learn to compromise, try new things, & learn to love wh. they love bc**

=Here, Paul gives practical ways every Believer can honor other Christians in His Ch. = **our posture**

READ Romans 12:9-15

⁹ Love *must be* free of hypocrisy. Detest what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor [outdo one another in showing honor], ¹¹ not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, ¹³ contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing [pursuing] hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

=How practical is this. How can we truly honor each other, love each other? As Jesus does??

Those who love Jesus are to love what He loves: Jesus loves **others** selflessly: **HOW?** *How love?*

Vs. 9: Love *must be* free of hypocrisy. (Let love be genuine) What does it mean to love with all *sincerity*? To love something means to **give** yourself to it (selfless/sacrificial act). **Real or Not?**

-1 Cor. 13:4-8 "Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous; love does not brag, it is not arrogant. ⁵ It does not act disgracefully, it does not seek its own benefit; it is not provoked, does not keep an account of a wrong *suffered*, ⁶ it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ it keeps every confidence [covers all things], it believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails." =Divine love/*agape*/**supernatural love**

-**If** we are pursuing God's heart of love, which reflects His holy, pure, & loving nature, then we will spiritually.....

-**Detest what is evil**; True love is God's love. His love is pure bc it reflects His character/nature

=Therefore we are to hate everything that detracts from God's glory, holiness, righteous nature

-**We are *not* to hate people.** **Everyone is redeemable.** But we are to hate evil, to hate sin, and the destruction that sin/evil wreaks on humanity (corruption, decay, despair, death). -**Jn 10:10**

-**I hate watching innocent things suffer pain/destruction. It sickens me. Watching evil befall oth**

-Prov. 6:16-19 "There are six things that the Lord **hates**, Seven that are an *abomination* to Him:

¹⁷ Haughty eyes (pride), a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood (murder), ¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, ¹⁹ A false witness *who* declares lies, And one who spreads strife **among brothers.**" These things are contrary to His nature/hates 'em. =**cross**

*Well Pastor, how do *I avoid* evil in my life? -Proverbs 4:14 "Don't take the path of the wicked;

don't follow those who do evil; don't even go near it; turn and run away." Run toward HIM =**repent**

-Paul says: -"Cling to what is good." Hold on for dear life to "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if it's worthy of praise" -Phil. 4:8

-So... to love as Christ loves is to give yourself to another selflessly, authentically, intentionally -hating what is evil (lies, deceit, unfaithfulness, two-faced, selfish, self-serving), but to cling to what is godly, holy, true, faithful, and worthy of praise =sacrificial! **How do we do it practically?**

Vs. 10: *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love;* Devotion=Intentional investment in their best interests (spending precious time w/them; being tender & patient w/em; longsuffering; being present w/em, not looking for reciprocity =your investment is pure/not expecting a return)

-How are you selflessly serving others in our church? Whose walk is stronger? Whose heart is more encouraged? Whose load is lightened? Whose faith is strengthened? Who looks more like Jesus because of your spiritual investment? =How can you practically devote yourself/time/res.?

-give preference to one another in honor [outdo one another in showing honor], Who are you leveraging your life, time, family, home, & resources to help grow closer to Jesus? How can you honor another's walk? Encourage them, bless 'em, serve 'em, identify how u see gospel alive n 'em

Paul states that our ministry of loving, serving, devoting, and encouraging others is

Vs. 11: *not to be lagging behind in diligence, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;* This is how we are to serve – w/focus, attentiveness, in details, in the small things, w/ persistence

-what do you give yourself to? Hobbies? Restore cars? Remote Control? Golf? Shop=TIME

=What kind of ministry is the result of selfless service and devotion to others' sp. growth???

Vs. 12: *rejoicing in hope* ...Your faithful ministry of blessing others helps you/them to rejoice in God's goodness & HOPE for what He designed us to experience (more of Himself; more of selflessness; more of His glory; more of biblical, faithful community to walk along side of each other) -Who do you know so well (outside of your family and close friends), that you know when they are in a season of blessing? -Who is actively tasting of the Lord's goodness & hope bc of you?

...persevering in tribulation ... Your faithful ministry of blessing others helps you/them to remain steadfast in moments/seasons of trial, despair, suffering, death. =You help them persevere

-Who do you know so well that you know when they are suffering, and the Lord would use you to help them, serve them, walk with them together? -Do you run toward the wounded? Run away

=What kind of ministry is the result of selfless service and devotion to others' sp. growth???

Help others to rejoice in hope, persevere in suffering, and help them be....

-devoted to prayer, To love what God loves is to love His Church, His Body. A practical way for us to love the church is to model "doing all of life & ministry through prayer." We show that we love each other as we pray for each other, specifically & often. We lead each other in prayer by praying with each other; making prayer our FIRST "go to" vs. gossip, or human wisdom, or just telling others about a situation. The kindest ministry you can lead is the ministry of intercession, leading others to the Lord in prayer & praying for them often. How's ur prayer life?

=What kind of ministry is the result of selfless service and devotion to others' sp. growth???

Vs. 13: *contributing to the needs of the saints*, -we are to be practical in our sacrificial ministry of loving others: We are not just to model prayer, and lead others in prayer together, but we are to sacrificially use our resources to help others, to bless others. We are to meet needs that we can.

A. We do this **privately** (Mt. 6:2-4);

B. We do this through the **Church** in our tithes and offerings. (We have a robust In-reach ministry [Jess Terhune]; We have a robust outreach ministry [Bryan Terhune]; when you give

monthly to the Lord's Church you are supporting weekly ministry and ministries that support people here and around the world. (plus our staff likes to feed their children.... ☺)

C. We do this *in* biblical **community**: We invite others into others' needs. Community Groups

=What kind of ministry is the result of selfless service and devotion to others' sp. growth???

-practicing [pursuing] hospitality. To love others well, we have to invite them into our hearts, our homes, and our personal space (selflessly giving up our rights and comforts for a season to be blessing to them). *We need to consider others' spiritual needs. Esp. those who don't look like you; dress like you; have what you have; act like you; or aren't from here)

-Jesus was accused of hanging out with the wrong crowd. He came to seek & save the lost.

-Jesus calls us to pursue the broken, the hurting, the outcast, the downtrodden, the least of th.

=We never look more like Jesus than when we welcome others into our world & serve them!

When we invest our lives into other people – it takes a lot out of you (hence, sacrificial love)

-When we are poured out without any expectation of anything in return, sometimes we get hurt.

=Sometimes the people we are ministering to, those we love well hurt us & use us.

-What does Jesus say is our response? Vs. 14: Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. True love, like Christ's love, is **NOT** spiteful, vengeful, or out to keep score. When we get hurt in the cause of Christ – we take it to the Lord. He gives us His strength. He empowers us to love the unlovable well, the undeserving. He reminds us that that is "us" too!

-Jesus modeled for us how to forgive: Nothing will demonstrate that your heart has been transformed by Christ than forgiving those who hurt you. This is supernatural! Not natural!!

=What kind of ministry is the result of selfless service and devotion to others' sp. growth???

=Our hearts are connected spiritually and we grow in healthy, spiritual rel. =new family!!

Vs. 15: Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Paul, lastly, encourages us what true biblical community does with each other; we **know** each another; we are **loved** and **known** by each other; and we feel deeply what you feel as you go through life (ups/downs) gains and losses; new life and death. (=our help as a ch. =teach **Suffer well/Die well for His Glory**)

APPLICATION:

-Are you known at the WELL? Or are you just showing up & leaving w/out any connections?

-Besides your immediate family, who truly knows you? Prays for you? Holds you accountable?

-Are you willing to put yourself out there and be known? Connections Pastor: Clif@thewellargyle.com

-Who are you currently pouring into spiritually? Mentoring? Discipling? Who is more like Jesus today because of your spiritual investment ?

-What is God calling you to do to connect with this local church? Discover WELL Class? Membership Class? Community Group? Find a church ministry and serve? Use your spiritual gifting? Tithe? Help?

-How can you honor others within your biblical community? How can you breath courage in their hearts?

-In what ways practically can you point out how you see the Gospel alive in their lives?