

Sermon Questions from Sunday, September 3, 2017

Romans 12:9-16

Pastor Kevin Cram

“For the Love”

Introduction

1. What have been your most positive experiences in a community? Have you had any negative experiences?
2. Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote, “He who loves his dream of a community more than the Christian community itself becomes a destroyer of the latter.” Do you agree or disagree with this thought?

Digging Deeper

3. Which commands in this passage do you find most challenging? Why?
4. According to this passage, what does love look like within the family of faith (v. 9-13)? How does love respond to those outside the faith (v. 14-16)?
5. Read 1 John 1:7-11. What does this passage teach us about the connection between our love for God and our love for one another?
6. Romans 13:8 says, “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another...” (NIV). How does Paul’s concept of love differ from today’s popular notions of love?
7. What are some of the obstacles and challenges you face in participating in Christian community?
8. What role do you think the Holy Spirit plays in building a loving, Christian community? (See also Phil. 2:1-2; Eph. 5:18-20; Gal. 5:22-23.)

Application

9. What are some specific ways as a group we can deepen our *practice* of love with each other?
10. Hospitality is the act of extending love and community to a stranger (See Matt. 25:34-36). Discuss ways that we can use our community to practice the grace of hospitality to those outside of our group.