

# Love God By Loving One Another

As the apostle Paul concludes his letter to the Romans, he instructs this early community of believers regarding how they should handle their differences. He knows that differences and disagreements are inevitable because the good news of the gospel calls people of many ages, backgrounds, and experiences. In Romans chapters 14-16, we find Paul's instructions for Christian living, teachings that continue to help us understand how we can live together today as changed and changing people. Paul shares practical ways we can love our neighbor and reminds us that sometimes showing love means choosing not to do something. Join us and be reminded of the heart of Paul's message: love for God and love for each other.

**AWARENESS** Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How would you describe Christian unity?
- How do you understand God's command to love one another?



**LISTEN TO THE EPISODE:** [Love God By Loving One Another](#)

**READ** [Romans 14-16](#)

**REFLECTION** After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney make the distinction between salvation issues and things addressed in Scripture that allow for disagreement or differences in interpretation. Make a list of things you think fall into each category. Why do you think each item fits in each category? Include any Scripture references that have shaped your convictions.
- Have you ever thought about love and deference being an act of servanthood? How does love relate to humility, meekness, and sacrifice? And how does such a posture imitate Christ?
- Scott points out that the word for forgiveness that Jesus uses in the Lord's Prayer means to "drop it." This doesn't mean that you ignore your own feelings or how something affects you, but that you don't hold it against or judge the other person. Reflect on how Jesus has done this for us. How are you doing at forgiving in your own life? What obstacles keep you from forgiving and being less judgmental?
- How do you love? Describe what love looks like in different spheres of your life: within your family, among your friends, at or through your work, in your church community, in your city, and even on a global scale. Reflect with God in prayer on what you see (or don't see). What have you learned in this series about how you might grow in love for God and neighbor?

**RELATED PASSAGES** for further study

[1 Corinthians 8:9-13](#), [John 13:12-17](#), [Philippians 2:1-4](#), [Galatians 3:28-29](#), [1 John 4:7-21](#)

## CONCLUSION

Make your “ten” list, like Darrell and Scott do at the end of segment 3. Who are some of the people who are special to you and have influenced your spiritual life? Reflect on your list in at least two ways. First, give specific thanks to God for these people and their witness—maybe even send them a shout out! Second, evaluate your list: is it made up of diverse people, like Paul’s? If not, are there such people who have influenced you?

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