

# The Sermon Connection

## Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

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The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

### ROMANS FOR YOU

#### Do-Ology ... (Romans 12:9-21)

Dr. Trent L. Thomas  
August 11, 2019

Last week Pastor Calvin continued our summer series on the second half of the Book of Romans. In this section, Paul begins an outline of what the Christian life should look like once we understand The Gospel as he has presented it. In today's message, Trent pointed out that so far, in Romans 1-11, we have studied the doctrines of election, salvation, justification, sanctification, and glorification. As a result of what we've learned about God's awe-inspiring plan of salvation, the believer's response to God is two-fold. It is first a vertical response to God of nothing less than passionate worship and complete surrender. It is secondly a horizontal response of loving others inside and outside the church. We are to love God and love people. Our passage this week involves what Pastor Trent calls, "Do-ology." It details what loving people looks like. It involves loving those we like and loving those we do not like.

Romans 12:9-16 gives us a great perspective of what it looks like to love people we like. Paul uses the phrase "one another" 3 times in these verses. That would suggest that these instructions are primarily for how believers should live with each other. Can you imagine what the Church would look like if each member of the body practiced love in the way that Paul describes it here? Devotion and honor are two words Paul uses for how we should relate to each other. First of all, if we are devoted to each other, we will "hang in there" with people even when it gets hard (think Cleveland Browns fans). Second, if we honor each other, we will always be putting others needs ahead of our own. That requires humility – which is why Paul tells us to not be proud or conceited. It is also interesting to note Paul's use of the words rejoice and joyful. As we love one another practically, there will be joy amongst God's people.

Trent titled the balance of the passage (vv. 17-21) "love those you don't like." Our human tendency is love the people who are easy to love. But what about those who are not only evil, but evil to us personally? Paul deals with this by teaching that the believers who are in the process of understanding God's love will not repay evil for evil. In fact, that person will go to the other extreme and work to overcome evil with good. This is where the "rubber of our faith" meets the "road of life." The reality is that there are people who will be mean and selfish – and downright evil. Paul teaches that we need to trust that God Himself will deal with those people. In the meantime, we need to strive to live at peace with all men.

The New International Version of the Bible titles this section "love in action." Theology goes hand-in-hand with Do-ology. Right belief in God without love for people is empty faith. Love for people without right belief in God is zeal without knowledge. Right belief should always be accompanied by right behavior.

## **READING AND REFLECTION:**

Read 1 Peter 1:10-12 and Matthew 13:16-17. What privilege do we have concerning God's plan of salvation that the prophets of the Old Testament and even the angels in heaven didn't have until the New Testament?

Read Romans 12:1-2. What does this passage say that our response should be to God's awesome plan of salvation?

Read Romans 12:9-13, 15-16 How should believers love those that we like?

Read Romans 12:14, 17-21 How should believers love those that we don't like?

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION:**

Make a list of the ways that Paul instructs us to show love. When was the last time you did one or more of those things?

How have you shown honor and devotion to another believer in your life? Who do you need to work on that with?

Would you consider yourself to be a humble person or a proud person? How does that show up in your life?

Is there anyone in your life who is evil? How does Paul instruct you to respond to that person?

Who do you need to work on living at peace with? Ask your small group to pray for you as well as that person.

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTION:**

When you gather with your family and/or your small group this week, talk about Trent's message. Discuss ways in which you have seen love in action in your group and at Destiny.

## **KEY POINT:**

**Believing the right things about God should always be accompanied by tangible love for people.**

## **RESOURCES:**

[One-Year New Testament Bible](#) (Available at the Information Table on Sunday mornings)

[Romans for You](#), Tim Keller