



Loving Jesus, Loving People, Plowing a Counter-Culture

SERMON TEXT: Romans 13:8-10

KEY POINT: The heart of a Christian is to love one another.

FOR LEADERS

- *Attendance!: Please remember to take attendance for your Community Group meetings! It may seem like a simple thing, but it is unbelievably helpful for us to gauge how we're doing in discipling our church! Thank you in advance, and please reach out if you need help setting up your recurring events in Emergence Connect!*

GETTING STARTED

- [1] Communities Video:** Watch this week's community extras video!
- [2] Icebreaker:** What does snow clean up look like at your house and on your street?
- [3] Opener:** What was one takeaway you had from the sermon this week?

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Ask for a volunteer to read Romans 13:8-10.

- [1]** In your experience, what kind(s) of ethical standards do Christians typically have the highest regard for? What does it look like for those standards to be lived out in terms of loving one another?
- [2]** If all the commandments of God are "summed up" by the command to love our neighbor as ourselves, does that mean we're free to disregard the other commandments? Why or why not?
- [3]** Do you think it's possible to become legalistic in our pursuit of loving one another? Explain

Ask for a volunteer to read Galatians 5:13-14.

- [4]** In what way does our freedom in Christ enable us to "serve one another through love" to a greater degree than if we were under bondage to sin?

WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE LAW?

Ask for someone to read Luke 10:25-28

- [5]** What are some things that stand out to you here from Jesus' exchange with the lawyer?
- [6]** Take a moment to consider the Ten Commandments [Exodus 20:1-18], which are often understood as the "core" of biblical ethics. In light of what we've read today, do you think this is correct? How are we meant to understand and communicate the heart of what the Bible teaches?

Ask for someone to read Luke 10:30-37.

In the sermon, Ryan explained that this parable expresses three marks of loving one's neighbor: **(1)** Love springs from a heart of compassion, **(2)** meets physical needs, and **(3)** meets financial needs.

- [7]** How do these three marks relate to meeting our neighbors' spiritual needs?



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- [8]** How are you doing at displaying the heart of the Good Samaritan towards others in your own life? Who are you personally trying to compassionately reach through meeting either physical or financial needs?
- [9]** We all fall short in this area (that’s kind of Jesus’ point!). What steps do you think the Lord wants you to take so that you can be more like the Good Samaritan?
- [10]** Why do you think Jesus specified the godly man of this parable to be a Samaritan? Do you think the meaning of this parable would be the same if we didn’t know his ethnic background?

GO AND DO LIKEWISE

- [11]** Who in your own life are you tempted to turn away from? What can you do to intentionally and compassionately show them the love of Christ?
- [12]** What is at risk if we fail to live out the meaning of the Good Samaritan in our own lives?
- [13]** Describe a time when someone showed you an extraordinary act of love. How did it impact you?
- [14]** In the sermon, Ryan said that Jesus is the only one who truly “fulfills” this parable to each and every one of us. How so?

PRAYER

- [1]** Pray that the Lord would convict you of all the ways you’re failing to love others, and ask that he give you Jesus-like, heartfelt compassion toward them.