



Sermon Growth Guide

October 17, 2021

Belong - Authentic Love

Romans 12:9-13

Key Verse: Romans 12:10 “ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

Big Idea: Belonging requires authentic love.

Foundations

Pastor Greg brings the word this week and offers these words from Mother Theresa to steer a part of our conversation: “The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty—it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There’s a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God.”

Did you catch the middle line of this quote, “the only cure for loneliness ... is love”? Our Scripture passage calls us to “be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves,” (Romans 12:10).

But how do we love sincerely? First and foremost, in the strength of the Lord. Only a life abiding in the love of God and rising in the strength of the Lord will be able to pour forth the kind of love that builds real belonging. To this end, pray earnestly for one another and for your time together this week.

Understanding God’s Word

What is the believer called to “hate” in verse nine? Why is it OK to hate in this regard?

In your circle, what does it look like to “be devoted to one another” as instructed in verse 10?

Throughout the string of imperatives in this week’s Scripture, what comes most natural for you, what is most difficult?

Applying God’s Word

Belonging requires authentic love. Authentic love requires God’s love to be at work in your heart. How can you even more join the Holy Spirit in welcoming His love into and through your heart, that it might be poured out to those around you? What’s your next step in being devoted to your community, your circle?

Witnessing God’s Word

Jesus demonstrated what it means and what it looks like to be devoted. How might you allow the devotion-love of Heaven to move through you to be poured out on those who suffer from what Mother Theresa calls a “poverty of spirituality”?

ALONE IS NO GOOD. JESUS INVITES YOU TO BELONG.