

Sermon Title: Faith @ Work: Relationships Matter Even More

Sermon Scripture: Romans 12:9-21



Sermon Discussion Guide (11/09)

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

Scripture

Read Romans 12:9-21 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

Observation

How are the terms “good” and “evil” used in these verses? According to verse 21, how should one react to encountering evil?

What do these verses reveal to us about how we are called to interact with others? Consider especially the use of the phrase “one another” in this passage and what is found in verse 15.

How do these verses instruct us to treat our enemies or those who persecute us? Why do you think we are called to treat our enemies in this way?

Read Ephesians 5:1-2. What do these verses show us about the nature of love? How can we embody the love described in these verses in our relationships with others?

Application

How does understanding love as sacrificial help you to see past the American values of politeness and niceness? In which relationships have you allowed niceness or politeness to replace genuine, sacrificial love?

How can you practice forgiveness in your relationships with others? Is there anyone you currently need to forgive?

Describe the current health of the relationships with the people in your home or the people closest to you. Have these relationships become superficial or transactional? Is there space for practicing love and forgiveness? Is there space for seeking and experiencing God's presence together? How might you invite the Holy Spirit to lead you in deepening your relationships with these people?

Mattie concluded her sermon by asking "who has God placed in your life for you to care for or encourage?" How would you answer this question? What is one step you can take this week to reflect the character of Christ in this relationship?

Prayer

God, we thank You that in Jesus we see the perfect example of love who died for us when we were yet sinners, forgave us when we did not deserve it, and welcomed us into a relationship with You. Lord, we confess that so often our relationships fall short of Your design. Forgive us for when we allow pride, impatience, or self-interest to take the place of love. By Your grace, teach us what it means to love sacrificially. To see others as You see them, to serve without seeking reward, and to extend forgiveness even to those who frustrate or oppose us. May our homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods become places where Your love is visible, where burdens are shared, and forgiveness is freely given. May others come to know You through the ways Your Spirit is at work within us. Amen.