

Series Verses: Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Pastor: "People of God, this is the Word of God!"

Congregation: "Thanks be to God!"

Intro:

Good morning, church. Last week, Pastor Mike did a great job kicking off this series on Romans 12:9-21, diving into Paul's practical guidance for living out our faith. In week 1, we learned that our <u>love</u> must be <u>genuine</u>, <u>free from hypocrisy</u>, <u>truly from the heart</u>, reflecting <u>God's love for us</u>. We are called to <u>hate evil</u>, rejecting and avoiding anything that harms others or <u>goes against God's holiness</u>. Instead, we must <u>cling tightly to what is good</u>, promoting what is <u>morally right</u> and beneficial for those around us. These principles – <u>sincere love</u>, <u>abhorrence of evil</u>, and <u>commitment to good</u> – form the foundation of how we should live as followers of Christ.
 And so we build up our faith, <u>Brick by Brick...</u>



- Today, we continue our **bricklaying** journey by looking at verses 10-12:
 - o Roman 12:10-12
 - "10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."
- Paul builds on these foundational principles by calling us to love one another with <u>brotherly affection</u>, to <u>outdo one another in showing honor</u>, to be <u>fervent in spirit</u>, and to <u>serve the Lord</u>. He encourages us to <u>rejoice in hope</u>, be <u>patient in tribulation</u>, and be <u>constant in prayer</u>. These verses are packed with powerful instructions on how we should conduct ourselves as a community of believers, so let's dive into these commands and explore how we can apply them in our daily lives.
- To begin, I want to share with you the story of William Carey, often referred to as the "father of the modern missions movement."
 Born in England in 1761, Carey was a humble shoemaker with an extraordinary passion for sharing the Gospel. Despite having little formal education, his zeal for the Lord and his heart for the lost drove him to learn multiple languages and immerse himself in the Scriptures.



Carey felt a profound burden for the people of India, who, at that time, had little exposure to the Gospel. <u>Despite facing tremendous opposition</u>, including from his own mission board, who doubted the feasibility of his plans, <u>Carey's fervor</u> for the Lord's work <u>never wavered</u>. He famously said:

"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."2

In 1793, Carey, along with his family, set sail for India. The journey was fraught with challenges. They faced illness, the death of his son, and severe financial difficulties. However, <u>Carey's unwavering dedication and fervent spirit</u> propelled him forward.

¹ https://founders.org/articles/solus-christus-william-careys-missional-foundation/

² https://sbhla.org/biographies/william-carey/



He understood that serving the Lord was not a task to be undertaken half-heartedly but with all <u>zeal</u> and <u>fervor</u>. Carey spent over 40 years in India, translating the Bible into several Indian languages and dialects, establishing schools, and promoting social reform.²

Carey's life exemplifies the kind of <u>active</u>, <u>intentional</u>, and <u>transformative</u> love that Paul talks about in Romans 12:10-12. His brotherly affection for the people of India, his commitment to honoring others, and his fervent spirit in serving the Lord are powerful examples for us today.

Just as Carey dedicated his life to serving the Lord <u>with zeal</u> and <u>showing genuine love</u> to others, we are called to do the same in our daily lives. This brings us to our main point:

Main Point:

True Christian love is <u>active</u>, <u>intentional</u>, and <u>transformative</u>.

As we've seen through the life of William Carey, and tens of thousands of other examples like him, <u>true Christian love isn't passive</u>; it's <u>active</u> <u>and transformative</u>. Carey's dedication to serving the people of India with genuine love and fervor is a powerful example of how our love for one another should be lived out daily. But how do we <u>practically</u> apply this kind of love in our own lives?

The Apostle Paul gives us a <u>clear roadmap in Romans 12:10-12</u>. He breaks down what it means to love one another with <u>brotherly affection</u>, to show honor by <u>putting others' needs before our own</u>, and to serve the Lord with <u>zeal and fervor</u>. Let's explore these key points and see how we can embody this active, intentional, and transformative love in our daily interactions and commitments.

Key Supporting Points:

1. Show brotherly affection that goes beyond mere words, with genuine compassion for one another.



- "Love one another with brotherly affection." (Romans 12:10a)
 Fun fact, the Greek word used for brotherly affection is
 "philadelphia," from Greek φιλέω (phileo) meaning "to love"
 and ἀδελφός (adelphos) meaning "brother" which literally means
 love for the brethren. This term emphasizes a familial type of love,
 akin to the love shared between siblings within a family. When Paul
 instructs us to "love one another with brotherly affection" in Romans
 12, he's calling us to a love that is deep, personal, and practical.
- For Paul, brotherly affection is more than just a sentiment; it is an <u>active love</u> that mirrors the care and commitment <u>found among</u> family members.
- Paul's teachings on this are not isolated to this single verse, though; they are woven throughout his letters, providing a broader context and deeper understanding of what it means to exhibit brotherly affection.
 - Love one another with brotherly affection through:
 Unity in Christ: "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body." (1 Corinthians 12:13)
 - Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to the church in Corinth, a
 diverse and often divided community. In this verse, Paul
 is addressing the believers to remind them that, <u>despite</u>
 their differences, they are all part of <u>one body</u> through
 the <u>Holy Spirit</u>. This unity is not based on their social
 status, ethnicity, or personal achievements but on their
 shared identity in Christ.
 - In practical terms, this means that when we see another believer, we should see them as a <u>part of ourselves</u>. Just as our body parts work together for the good of the whole body, we should strive to work together and support each other in the church.
 - Encouraging unity means <u>regularly engaging in the study</u> of God's Word together. Gathering to discuss the Bible, sharing insights, and learning from one another helps to <u>deepen our collective understanding</u> and strengthens our bond in Christ.



- When we immerse ourselves in Scripture as a community, we align our hearts and minds with God's truth, fostering unity.
- It's also vital to meet regularly <u>for fellowship and</u>
 <u>discussion</u>. These gatherings are opportunities to <u>speak</u>
 <u>truth</u> into each other's lives, to <u>challenge and encourage</u>
 one another in our walk with Christ. By sharing our
 struggles, triumphs, and experiences, we <u>grow closer</u>
 and more unified in our purpose to live out the Gospel.
- Moreover, we must <u>encourage</u> each other toward the truth. In a world full of distractions and false teachings, <u>reminding each other of the truth found in Jesus is</u> <u>crucial</u>. This means holding each <u>other accountable</u>, speaking the <u>truth in love</u>, and constantly pointing one another back to the Gospel.
- By focusing on these practices—regular study of the Word, gathering for discussion, and encouraging one another in truth—we demonstrate that our unity in Christ is not limited to our Sunday services but is an integral part of our daily lives. This unity in Christ strengthens the entire body, helping us to grow and serve Him more effectively.
- Love one another with brotherly affection through:
 Mutual Care and Support: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)
 - In Galatians 6:2, Paul is writing to the churches in Galatia, addressing the importance of living out their faith through love and service. He emphasizes that bearing each other's burdens is a direct way to fulfill Christ's command to love one another. This verse speaks to the practical side of brotherly affection – it's not just about feeling compassion <u>but acting on it</u>.



- Consider a real-world example: if a friend is going through a difficult time, such as losing a job or facing a personal crisis, we are called to step in and help carry that load. This might mean offering emotional support, financial assistance, or simply being present.
- In the early church, as we see in Acts 2 for example, believers would often sell their possessions to help those in need, demonstrating an extraordinary level of mutual care. When we bear each other's burdens today, we continue this tradition, showing that our love is active and genuine. It's a powerful witness to the world, showcasing the transformative love of Christ in practical ways.
- Love one another with brotherly affection through:
 Encouragement: "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
 - Paul's letter to the Thessalonians was meant to strengthen and encourage the believers there, who were facing persecution and trials. In 1 Thessalonians 5:11, he urges them to encourage one another and build each other up.
 - This type of encouragement isn't just about making someone feel good momentarily; it's about fostering growth and resilience in the faith.
 - Encouragement can take many forms. It might be a heartfelt conversation where you remind someone of their worth in Christ, sending a supportive message, or acknowledging someone's efforts and contributions.
 - In Thessalonica, the believers were uplifted by Paul's words, which helped them persevere through their hardships.
 - Today, our encouragement can have the same effect, helping others to keep going, deepen their faith, and continue to serve the Lord with joy. When we build each



other up, we create a strong, supportive community that reflects God's love.

- Love one another with brotherly affection through:
 Forgiveness and Patience: "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

 (Ephesians 4:32)
 - Paul's letter to the Ephesians focuses on living out the Christian faith in practical ways. In Ephesians 4:32, he calls the believers to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving, just as God has forgiven us in Christ.
 Forgiveness is a cornerstone of Christian relationships because it mirrors the grace that we have received from God.
 - Forgiveness isn't always easy. It requires <u>humility</u> and a
 willingness to let go of our assumed "right to be angry"
 or to "seek revenge." In the early church, forgiveness
 was essential for maintaining unity and love among
 believers. For instance, when Paul wrote to Philemon, he
 urged him to forgive his runaway slave, Onesimus, and
 to receive him back not as a slave but as a beloved
 brother in Christ.
 - This act of forgiveness would have been a profound testimony to the transformative power of the Gospel.
 - In our lives, practicing forgiveness means letting go of past hurts and choosing to extend grace, just as we have received grace. It heals relationships and fosters a community where love and compassion thrive. By being kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving, we embody the brotherly affection that Paul speaks of, showing that our love is sincere and reflective of Christ's love for us.



- So my question for you is this: who have you heaped your pain upon? When I ask you, "Who in your life is unforgivable," who comes to mind?
- <u>Remember</u>, your savior heaped those wrongs, as well as your own, upon the Cross of Calvary. And he died to cover them and to provide <u>you</u> with grace and forgiveness. Can you do no less for your brother or sister in Christ?
- So take heart, brothers and sisters, because HE has overcome, that means WE can overcome, which means I can overcome.
- In this we can go beyond words and demonstrate genuine compassion for one another. This active, intentional love strengthens our community and reflects the heart of Christ, making His love visible in our world. Let's strive to show brotherly affection in all we do, building a church that truly embodies the love of God.

2. Show honor by putting others' needs before your own.

- "Outdo one another in showing honor." (Romans 12:10b)
 When Paul tells us to "outdo one another in showing honor" in
 Romans 12:10b, he's encouraging us to make a habit of putting others
 first. This means recognizing the <u>value</u> and <u>worth</u> of those around us
 and acting in ways that show our respect and care for them:
 - Show honor by putting others' needs before your own Humility: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)
 - In Philippians 2:3, Paul is writing to the church in Philippi, encouraging them to adopt a Christ-like attitude of humility. The believers in Philippi were facing various challenges, including internal conflicts and external pressures.



- Paul emphasizes that true unity and harmony within the church come from humility and selflessness. He urges the Philippians to consider others as more significant than themselves, which directly counters the natural human inclination towards selfish ambition and pride.
- Paul's instruction to the Philippians was revolutionary. In a culture that often valued status and personal achievement, Paul's call to humility was countercultural. He illustrated this humility by pointing to Jesus, who, despite being in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be exploited but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant and humbling Himself to the point of death on a cross (Philippians 2:5-8).
- In our context, humility means recognizing the value and importance of others. It means listening to others' opinions, valuing their contributions, and being willing to put their needs above our own. For example, in our families, humility can look like prioritizing a family member's needs over our own preferences, such as letting someone else choose the activity for family time or taking the time to help with household chores without being asked. Within our circle of influence, humility might involve giving credit to others in a team project at work, actively seeking to understand and support colleagues' ideas, or mentoring someone without expecting anything in return. By practicing humility in these everyday situations, we honor others, strengthen our relationships, and build a culture of mutual respect and support.
- Show honor by putting others' needs before your own Respect: "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)



- In 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, Paul is writing to the believers in Thessalonica, a young church facing persecution. Paul encourages them to live in peace and to respect those who work hard among them, specifically their leaders. This respect is rooted in love and is meant to foster a strong, supportive community. By honoring one another above ourselves, we create an environment where everyone feels valued and appreciated.
- Think about how you treat your friends, family, coworkers, managers or teachers. Respecting them means more than just being polite; it involves genuinely valuing their opinions and contributions. Paul's intention in his letter to the church of Thessalonica was to help strengthen the bond between church members and their leaders, encouraging a spirit of unity and mutual respect. Today, when we show respect to others, we acknowledge their worth and build a community based on love and honor. This respect goes a long way in creating an environment where everyone feels seen and appreciated.
- Show honor by putting others' needs before your own <u>Service</u>: "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." (Galatians 5:13)
 - Paul's letter to the Galatians addresses the nature of Christian freedom. The Galatian church was struggling with legalism and the misunderstanding of freedom in Christ. Paul clarifies that Christian freedom is not a license to indulge in selfish desires but an opportunity to serve others in love. He emphasizes that true freedom is found in living according to the Spirit, which manifests in



- love, joy, peace, and other fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- Paul's message to the Galatians highlights that our freedom in Christ comes with the responsibility to serve others. This service is not out of obligation but out of love, reflecting Christ's example of selfless service. Jesus Himself said, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).
- My question for you is this:
 - Are your acts of service aimed to Praise God's Work
 - or to Receive Earthly Praise?
 - Is your service based in a heart of Gratitude or a heart of Grumbling?
 - Are you a Cheerful servant or an Irritated servant?
 - Are your works Joyful or Dutiful?
- In our Christian lives, serving others means actively looking for ways to help and support those around us.
 Service shows that we care about others and are willing to invest our time and effort in their well-being. By serving with love, we honor others and demonstrate the transformative power of Christ's love in our actions.
- Show honor by putting others' needs before your own <u>Reassurance:</u> "Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up." (Romans 15:2)
 - In Romans 15:2, Paul writes to the Roman church, encouraging believers to support and build up one another. The church in Rome was a diverse community with both Jewish and Gentile Christians, and there were tensions and conflicts arising from their different backgrounds and practices. Paul emphasizes the importance of unity and mutual edification, urging



- believers to act in ways that promote the good and growth of their neighbors.
- Paul's call to please our neighbors for their good means going beyond our own interests and considering how our actions and words impact others. It's about creating an environment where everyone feels supported and encouraged to grow in their faith. This reassurance strengthens the community and helps individuals feel valued and empowered.
- However, it's important here to note that Paul says "For His Good" as a qualifier. This means that we are not to reinforce bad habits or behaviors that negatively impact the lives of our friends. Instead we are to all one-another to what is good, and what is good for us, namely God and the things of God.
- In practical terms, reassuring others involves offering support, encouragement, and positive reinforcement. It might mean complimenting a friend on their hard work, encouraging a family member, classmate or coworker who is struggling, or providing a listening ear to someone going through a tough time. Reassurance helps to build confidence and foster a sense of belonging. By building others up, we honor them and contribute to a positive, uplifting community that reflects the love and encouragement we receive from God.
- o By showing honor through humility, respect, service, and reassurance, we embody the active, intentional, and transformative love that Paul describes. When we put others' needs before our own, we create a community that values and uplifts each person, reflecting the love of Christ in a tangible way. Let's model Christ by honoring one another in all we do, making our love for each other evident to the world around us.



- 3. Show commitment and passion for His work by serving the Lord with zeal and fervor.
 - "Do not be slothful in <u>zeal</u>, be fervent in <u>spirit</u>, serve the <u>Lord</u>."
 (Romans 12:11)

When Paul instructs us in Romans 12:11, "Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord," he's emphasizing the importance of being enthusiastic and diligent in our service to God. This isn't about doing the bare minimum; it's about giving our all with a passionate heart. Let's explore the ways that Paul expands on this in his other letters:

- Show commitment and passion for His work by serving the Lord with zeal and fervor.
 - <u>Diligence:</u> "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." (Colossians 3:23)
 - In Colossians 3:23, Paul wrote to the believers in Colossae, a city in Asia Minor. The context of this verse is a section where Paul gives practical advice on Christian living. He's addressing relationships within the household, including those between bondservants and masters. When Paul says, "work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men," he's encouraging them to see their everyday tasks as acts of worship. This means that even the most mundane jobs should be done with diligence and excellence because ultimately, they are serving God.
 - For us, this might mean putting our <u>best effort</u> into our schoolwork, jobs, and responsibilities at home. Whether it's completing a homework assignment or working a part-time job, doing it <u>heartily as for the Lord</u> means approaching it with a positive attitude and a strong work ethic. In the early church, this perspective transformed how believers approached their work, leading to a community known for its dedication and integrity. Today, when we work <u>diligently</u>, we <u>honor God</u> and <u>set an example</u> of what it means to serve Him with our whole heart.



- Show commitment and passion for His work by serving the Lord with zeal and fervor.
 - <u>Spiritual Fervor:</u> "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God." (2 Timothy 1:6)
 - Paul wrote 2 Timothy to his young protégé, Timothy, who was facing challenges in his ministry. In 2 Timothy 1:6, Paul encourages Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God." This metaphor of fanning into flame suggests that our spiritual fervor requires constant attention and effort. Paul knew that Timothy needed encouragement to remain passionate and effective in his ministry despite difficulties he would face.
 - The word "Fervor" refers to intense and passionate feeling, enthusiasm, or zeal. It denotes a great warmth and earnestness of feeling, often directed towards a cause, belief, or activity. "Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord." This passage encourages believers to maintain an enthusiastic and passionate commitment to their spiritual duties and service to God.
 - For us, spiritual fervor involves <u>actively nurturing our faith</u> and <u>using our gifts for God's glory</u>. This could mean participating in Bible study, engaging in regular prayer, and finding ways to serve in our church or community.
 - In Timothy's case, Paul's encouragement helped him to <u>stay focused and energized</u> in his ministry. Today, maintaining our spiritual fervor keeps us motivated and enthusiastic about our faith, allowing us to serve God <u>passionately and effectively</u>. By keeping our spiritual fervor alive, we show a deep commitment to God's work and remain motivated to serve Him wholeheartedly.



- Show commitment and passion for His work by serving the Lord with zeal and fervor.
 - Zeal: "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12)
 - In Ephesians 4:11-12, Paul writes to the believers in Ephesus, emphasizing the importance of <u>various roles</u> <u>within the church</u>. He explains that Christ gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and <u>teachers to equip</u> <u>the saints for the work of ministry</u>. This equipping is meant to <u>build up the body of Christ</u>, ensuring that every believer is prepared and passionate about <u>their</u> <u>role</u> in the church.
 - Zeal in this context means having a passionate commitment to using our gifts and fulfilling our roles within the church. Whether you're called to teach, lead, evangelize, or serve in other ways, doing so with zeal means putting your whole heart into it.
 - In Ephesus, this teaching helped believers understand the importance of their individual contributions to the church's mission. For us, it's a reminder that every role is valuable and that we should approach our service with enthusiasm and dedication.
 - We need to realize that the <u>opposite</u> of Zeal is <u>apathy</u> or <u>indifference</u>. When we serve with <u>zeal</u>, we contribute to the <u>growth</u> and <u>strength</u> of the church, reflecting our commitment to God's work.
- Show commitment and passion for His work by serving the Lord with zeal and fervor.
 - **Endurance:** "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)
 - In Galatians 6:9, Paul encourages the believers in Galatia to persevere in doing good.



- He acknowledges that doing good can be <u>tiring and</u> <u>discouraging</u>, especially when we don't see <u>immediate</u> results.
- However, Paul assures them that their efforts will bear fruit in God's perfect timing. This promise of reaping a harvest if we do not give up is meant to motivate and strengthen believers to keep going.
- Endurance in our service means <u>continuing to do good</u> <u>even when it's difficult or when we feel like giving up</u>. It's about trusting that God will bring about a harvest from our efforts in His timing. In Galatia, this encouragement helped believers stay committed to their good works despite challenges. For us, <u>endurance means staying faithful in our service to God</u>, <u>knowing that our efforts are not in vain</u>. By enduring through challenges and continuing to do good, we demonstrate our unwavering commitment to God's work, trusting that He will bring about a bountiful harvest.
- By showing diligence, maintaining spiritual fervor, serving with zeal, and enduring hardships, we embody the active, intentional, and transformative love that Paul describes. Let's strive to serve the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind, reflecting His love and passion in everything we do.

Challenges for the Congregation:

Main Point: True Christian love is active, intentional, and transformative.

As we have explored today, <u>true Christian love is active, intentional, and transformative</u>. Our love for one another should be marked by <u>brotherly affection</u>, honoring others, and fervently serving the Lord. Paul gives us three challenges in the final verse we'll look at today from <u>Romans 12</u> that give us practical steps to live out this love daily.



Let's look at verse 12 now as our challenge from the scripture:

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

What is remarkable about these exhortations is that *Paul himself exemplified them*, even in <u>the most challenging circumstances</u>. As an example, when Paul wrote his letter to the <u>church at Philippi</u>, he was imprisoned, yet his words overflowed with joy, encouragement, and steadfastness. Despite his situation, Paul urged the believers to <u>rejoice</u>, remain <u>patient</u> in their trials, and <u>persist</u> in prayer. His example shows us that living out these commands is possible regardless of our earthly circumstances.

With this context in mind, let's delve into these three challenges:

1. Rejoice in Hope:

Reflect on the great work done in your life by Jesus, and actively look for reasons to be hopeful this week – and share that hope with someone else. Encouraging one another with the hope we have in Christ can transform our perspectives and strengthen our faith.

Supporting Verse:

Philippians 4:4 - "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice."

2. Be Patient in Tribulation:

When you face challenges or difficulties this week, see opportunities to practice patience and seek to respond with grace. Reflect on how enduring hardships can deepen your character and reliance on God, demonstrating true Christian love in difficult times.

Supporting Verse:

Philippians 1:29-30 -

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents.



This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, <u>but of your salvation</u>, <u>and that from God</u>. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

3. Be Constant in Prayer:

Commit to praying every day this week for your fellow church members, and for our brothers and sisters around the globe. Let your prayers be an act of love, asking God to meet their needs, guide them, and fill them with His peace and strength.

Supporting Verse:

Philippians 4:6 - "Do not be <u>anxious</u> about anything, but in everything by <u>prayer and supplication</u> with <u>thanksgiving</u> let your requests be <u>made known to God</u>."

By embracing these three challenges laid out in Romans 12:12, we embody the transformative love that Paul describes, making a tangible difference in our lives and the lives of those around us.

Closing:

- Rember that true Christian love is active, not passive.
- We are called to love each other <u>deeply</u>, <u>honor</u> one another, and <u>serve</u> the Lord with zeal.
- Let our love be genuine, our honor <u>sincere</u>, and our service <u>fervent</u>, transforming our community and glorifying God.

Prayer

Communion



Confession of Faith – The Congregation will stand

Elder – "Christians, what do you believe?"

Congregation - LBCF 1689 Chapter 26 Section 5, The Purpose of Local Churches To carry out the authority given to him, the Lord Jesus calls people out of the world who are given to him by his Father through the ministry of his word, by his Spirit. He calls them to walk before him in all the ways of obedience that he prescribes for them in his Word. He commands all who are called to walk together in local congregations, or churches, to edify one another and participate in the elements of public worship that he requires from them while they are in the world.

9. John 10:16; John 12:32.

10. Matthew 28:20.

11. Matthew 18:15-20

Benediction - Philippians 4:8-9

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.