

Sermon Discussion Questions, June 20, 2010,
Loving Each Other in the Body of Christ, Dr. Rod MacIlvaine
Romans 12:9-21

1. Why is genuine love hard work? What does everyone bring into a relationship? What does scripture say about love?

Romans 12:9

Proverbs 10:12

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Proverbs 17:9

2. Read Romans 12:9. Define hypocrisy. Why do think Paul begins this section of scripture with such a strong command? Is this easy or hard to obey? Why?
3. What type of love was Paul addressing? Romans 5:5, 8:35, 2 Corinthians 5:14
What does it mean to love in this manner? What does this type of love look like when it is practiced (Romans 12:10-13)? In what tangible ways will you do these things this week?
4. According to verses 14, 17a-21, how should Christ followers deal with enemies? Is this easy or hard for you? Why? How did Jesus model a right response to His enemies in 1 Peter 2:21, 23?
5. Look closely at verses 17-18. What are the three commands? To whom do these commands apply? How can you practice v. 20 in everyday circumstances?
6. What is the theological reason why we don't take revenge (verses 19-20)? Has there ever been a time when you have taken revenge on someone? Honestly evaluate how it made you feel. What would have been a better way to respond?
7. Is there ever an ethical reason to engage in self-defense? If possible, defend your answer with scripture and/or biblical precedent.
8. According to v.15-17, how are we to deal with those who are different? What Christ like characteristic leads to harmony with others? When have you associated with the lowly? How did you specifically treat that person in an honorable way? What was your motive and what was the outcome?