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Valley Church

February 2 & 5, 2023
Week 35: All You Need Is Love (Rom 12:9-21)

Introduction:

Repentance = "a change of _____ or perspective"

Metanoeo - from "meta" (to change) and "gnosis" (mind/thinking/perspective)

Romans 12:9

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good.

Four Greek terms for love:

- _____ – romantic, sexual, physical love
- _____ – strong affinity, as in a friendship quality of love
- _____ – familial love, "brotherly love"
- _____ – highest form of love, divine love, sacrificial and selfless

Two Primary Qualities of Love:

- 1) _____ (Love must be sincere)
- 2) _____ (Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good)

"Love must be sincere" = Literally: "Love, un-hypocritical" from Greek *anypocritos* ("an" meaning "no" → "hypocritos" meaning "pretense, pretending, hypocrisy")

See 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

When love encounters what is evil, it refuses to participate. Love doesn't embrace evil, nor does it merely look the other way. Love dares to confront someone doing evil, not to judge or browbeat but to inspire righteousness. (Insights on Romans, Swindoll, p. 257)

See 2 Peter 3:8-9

Homework Assignment:

Romans 12:10-21 daily...

SMALL GROUP Q'S

Personal Life:

1. Whether or not you remember the Beatles releasing "All You Need Is Love," what are some other "love anthems" that have been popular in your generation?

Ponderings:

2. Clearly, Paul says that love and hypocrisy are antithetical (i.e. "Love must be sincere" or "un-hypocritical"). Let's jump right in with brutal honesty: share with your group about an outward effort to love someone that you admit was not truly "sincere" or "un-hypocritical."

How do you tell the difference between genuine love and merely "going through the motions?" Why is love the foundational quality of our discipleship process as believers?

3. Not only is love to be characterized by sincerity, but also by integrity (i.e. "Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good"). Why do you honestly think that many in today's culture have trouble with the idea of "*loving the sinner while hating the sin?*" In other words, a prevailing attitude is "*if you don't accept my lifestyle, that means you're hating on me...*" Thoughts???
4. "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good." What if your everyday life was increasingly characterized by that lifestyle? What specific areas of your life experience might improve? What other benefits might there be in living such a life?
5. Paul has already affirmed that growing in this lifestyle happens best in the context of loving community (see verses 1, 4 & 5). Why does loving with both sincerity and integrity hinge upon an inter-dependent humility in the body of Christ? Try to be specific. Are you contributing to this inter-dependence? Explain...

Promptings:

6. If Jesus were to physically join Valley as His "local church," what things do you think He would be thrilled with or proud of? What things do you think He might wish to change?

What if He's calling you to help affect that change? What might that look like?