

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Love God and His People

Sunday, October 18, 2020

Scripture: **Romans 12:9–13**

Series: **Following Christ Through the Chaos**

OVERVIEW

Given the global, national and personal challenges we've faced in 2020, many of us are bracing just to finish the year 2020 intact. We may feel like we are limping into the end of the year hoping that 2021 will bring a fresh start. However, next year is bound to bring enough trouble of its own. Rather than just surviving, believers are called to strive to finish strong. That means working out our salvation and producing the fruit that God has prepared for us to bear. Doing this will prepare us well for whatever comes our way in 2021. **Jesus leads us through chaos by love.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Philippians 2:3, Romans 10:1-2, Revelation 3:15-19, Acts 2:42-45, Acts 4:32-35, Luke 19:10, Mark 10:45, Luke 7:34, Romans 12:1-2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In 2020, have you observed an increase or decrease of affection among neighbors, co-workers, and family members? Has your affection for others grown or waned?
2. Pastor Joe pointed out that the Greek word for "love" in verse 9 is "*agapē*," which has a uniquely Christian meaning. What distinguishes this kind of love? [*sacrificing your own good for those who do not deserve it, reference Romans 5:8*]
3. The notions of love and hate (abhor) appear in proximity in verse 9. Why is hate required in order to truly love? What are examples of things that one must hate to love another?
4. Is your zeal and fervency in serving God and others strong? Do you find yourself suspicious of those who exhibit a passionate spirit? Why?
5. Are you experiencing joy and praying with confidence in light of the assured expectation of God's promises?
6. During these difficult times, are you stepping up with even greater generosity toward your brothers and sisters in need?
7. Do you find the call to love more exhausting? Where do we get the energy and motivation to fulfill the Christian life when we ourselves are empty? [*God knows we are weak. He has perfectly loved us through Christ even though we only deserve death. Continual remembrance of this gospel is necessary to fuel all of the above good works—see Romans 12:1-2 and 2 Peter 1:3-9*]