

October 23, 2016 / Romans 12:9-21

“Empathy: A Sign Of Sincere Love”

- As we move towards the end of October...Reformation Day!—salvation by grace, through faith
- Religion Vs Gospel (Pastor Tim Keller):
 - o Religion: “I obey; therefore, I’m accepted.” Gospel: “I’m accepted; therefore, I obey.”
 - o Religion: Motivation is based on fear and insecurity. Gospel: Motivation is based on grateful joy.
 - o Religion: I obey God in order to get things from God. Gospel: I obey God to get God – to delight in and resemble him.
- The basic “Gospel structure” of the Romans letter
 - o Chapters 1-11: gospel / doctrine” (just a few imperatives / commands)
 - “Justification” (How we are made right with God; What God has accomplished)
 - o Chapter 12-16: “In view of God’s mercies” (12:1); practical application (many more imperatives / commands)
 - “Sanctification” (How we live after being made right with God)

Romans 12:9-21—Life Together (church, family, marriage, friendships, etc.)

“Love must be sincere” [theme / heading]

How is this “sincere love” going to happen?

1. **“Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.”** [reject things that ruin love, hold on to things that foster love]
2. **“Be devoted to one another in love.”** [a deep commitment to love; “be good friends who love deeply”]
3. **“Honor one another above yourselves.”** [“practice playing second fiddle”]
4. **“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”**
5. **“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”** [joy, hope, patience and prayer with each other]
6. **“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need.”** [“there can be no love without sharing”]
7. **“Practice hospitality.”** [“be inventive / innovative in hospitality”]
8. **“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”** [love in the “tough times”]
9. **“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”**
 - Sympathy vs Empathy
 - Examples...
 - “Jesus wept” (John 11:35).
 - “As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known

on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes” (Luke 19:41-42).

- How does this happen?
 - Be human, know your humanity
 - Reading good books, watching good movies / documentaries
- What is it like to...???