

Group Leader Guide

Sermon Recap

Ephesians 5:26-27; Romans 12:9-16; Romans 5:8; Romans 5:5; Romans 8:35, 39; John 13:35; John 15:2; Psalm 100:2; Mark 10:45; Hebrews 10:24-25; 2 Corinthians 9:11; Luke 6:28; Hebrews 4:15; Philippians 2:2

Pastor Alex addressed the theme of renewal, emphasizing that true renewal comes from God transforming His people, both individually and collectively. He highlighted that as believers, our worship and renewed minds change how we see ourselves and others, prompting us to express genuine love as Christ did. In discussing love's various dimensions, he noted key ingredients such as sincerity, honor, fervor, and sympathy, illustrating that these traits reflect the character of Christ in our relationships. Ultimately, he encouraged the congregation to actively engage in loving one another and to seek renewal in areas where they struggle, relying on the Holy Spirit for transformation.

Quotes

Love is like the circulatory system of the spiritual body, it enables all the members to function in a healthy and unified way. ~Warren Wiersbe

If renewal is about growing in our reflection of Christ's character then the love of Christ will be growing in us and compelling us in our relationships. ~Pastor Alex

Discussion Questions

Read back through Romans 12:9-16 together and pin point How Christ has accomplished the different "ingredients for love" in your own life.

- Discuss the particle aspects of these characteristics that have really ministered to you and how you have tried to grow those same characteristics in your life.
- How does Jesus living out and displaying these characteristics of love in His ministry to us give you strength and perspective to model them in your own life?

What does it mean for love to be genuine, as mentioned in Romans 12:9, and how can we show this kind of love to our friends and family?

- In the sermon, it was emphasized that genuine love is sincere, pure, and free from hypocrisy. Paul urges us to let our love reflect God's love for us.

- Think about a recent situation where you expressed love. Was it genuine? How can you improve on being more authentic in your relationships?

How does the idea of being patient in difficult times, as discussed in Romans 12:12, relate to how we support each other as a community?

- The sermon pointed out that patience is vital in our love for God's people, especially when facing tribulations together.
- Can you recall a time when you needed patience from someone or when you had to be patient with someone? How did that experience strengthen your relationship?

What are some practical ways we can honor one another in our community, as suggested in Romans 12:10 about outdoing one another in showing honor?

- Paul encourages us to prioritize honoring others above ourselves, which fosters a spirit of unity and love in the church.
- Think of a specific person in your life whom you admire. How can you express your honor and appreciation to them this week?

Why is sympathy, as highlighted when Paul talks about rejoicing and weeping together, crucial for building strong relationships in our community?

- The sermon discussed how sharing in each other's joys and sorrows creates a deeper connection and understanding among believers.
- Reflect on a time when a friend shared a joy or sorrow with you. How did your response affect your relationship with them?

In what ways can we practice hospitality as a reflection of our love for others, similar to how Jesus welcomed us?

- The sermon talked about hospitality being an essential expression of love, helping to create a welcoming environment for everyone.
- Are there opportunities in your life right now where you can invite someone in or show kindness to a stranger? What steps can you take to do this?
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Prayer

- Begin with any prayer requests for the group.
- Ask God to help you apply the lessons on love and renewal to your interactions this week.
- Pray for patience and understanding in your relationships.
- Ask for opportunities to serve others and show hospitality in your community.