

Living Connections Bible Study



The Gospel in Shoe Leather

Prayer

Text: Romans 12:9-13

Icebreaker: Discuss what is meant when we talk about *the gospel in shoe leather*, and why is this concept so important if people are to believe our message.

Romans 12 (1-2) begins with the exhortation to present our bodies as living sacrifices to God through whom He desires to work with the spiritual gifts (3-8) Christ has given to each one of us to build up His body, the Church, and the Kingdom of God in this world. The rest of the chapter then discusses our testimony and relationships both with believers, the world, and even our enemies.

1. What is the greatest hallmark of authentic Christianity? Verse 9a
Colossians 3:12-14; Matthew 22:37-40; 1 Corinthians 13:13

2. How might a believer be guilty of hypocrisy with regard to love? Verse 9a

Agape-love is used by the New Testament writers to describe a volitional love, a self-sacrificing love as opposed to a purely emotional love. Agape-love involves a positive decision or action even toward an enemy who is unworthy of our love.

3. Who and what is the greatest example of *agape love*, and how is this love described in the following verses? John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

4. How does Biblical love respond when it encounters sin? Verse 9b

5. What opposite response does the Spirit directed Christian have toward things that are good. Verse 9c; Philippians 4:8; 1 John 2:20-21, 27

6. How does God want believers to relate one to another in the body of Christ? Verse 10a

7. Think of some ways we can honor and give preference to one another. Verse 10b

8. What kind of effort and energy should we put into our Christian service? Verse 11
Colossians 3:17 and 23; 1 Corinthians 10:31

9. What reasons do we have to rejoice in hope? Verse 12a Titus 2:13-14

10. What should be our demeanor and attitude during times of trial? Verse 12b
James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-9; Romans 8:28

11. What great privilege do we have to help us through difficult times? Verse 12c
Colossians 4:2; 1 Peter 5:7

12. What two ways do we find in verse 13 by which we can demonstrate our love for others, especially the saints? Acts 2:44-45; 1 John 3:17-18; 1 Timothy 6:17-18; Hebrews 13:2

Think about it this week:

I am to demonstrate my love for God, love for the saints, and love for unbelievers by my hospitality to outsiders ...those outside my circle of friends ...those outside my church family, those from other ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and even those holding beliefs different to my own.

How shall we reach them if we don't demonstrate God's love for them?