



**Introduction** – *Love as you are loved!*

**Today’s Message:**

*Love must be sincere – making a difference*

Romans 12:9-16

**The radical nature of truth**

Romans 12:9b, 11-12

Hating and Clinging

Not Religious Truth

Not just any truth

Gospel Truth

Matthew 7:24-29

**Devotion to one another**

Romans 12:10, 13a

Honoring one another above yourselves

Luke 18:9-14

**The Practice of Hospitality**

Romans 12:13b-16

What is hospitality?

Luke 19:1-10

Barriers to Hospitality

Not Believing the Gospel

FOMO

Viewing people as a threat

Inability/Unwillingness to Listen

**Gospel Application** – *Will you let the gospel of Jesus (as you are loved) move in you so that your love is sincere?*

**Romans 12:9-16**

<sup>9</sup>Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

<sup>11</sup>Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

<sup>13</sup>Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

<sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

**Matthew 7:24**

<sup>24</sup>“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

**Luke 18:9-14**

<sup>9</sup>To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ <sup>13</sup>“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ <sup>14</sup>“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

**Luke 19:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup>A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup>He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” <sup>6</sup>So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. <sup>7</sup>All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” <sup>8</sup>But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”



# Love Thy Neighbor

How to love people in turbulent times

A HCC Sermon Series

## John 13:34-35

<sup>34</sup>“ A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”



Last week's message:  
*Loving people who drive you nuts!*  
***1 Corinthians 13***

[hopecc.com/slides](http://hopecc.com/slides)

[hopecc.com/notes](http://hopecc.com/notes)

## **Romans 12:9b, 11-12**

<sup>9</sup>Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

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Do not be conceited.

Today's Message:

*Love must be sincere ~ making a difference*

***Romans 12:9-16***

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# Love must be sincere

## Romans 12:9b, 11-12

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# Love must be sincere

## *1. The radical nature of truth*

### **Romans 12:9b, 11-12**

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*Hate what is evil*, writes Paul, where his verb is a strong one, expressing utter abhorrence of the evil thing (cf. KJV, “abhor”). We should be clear that love is quite different from sentimentality. True love involves a deep hatred for all that is evil, for evil can never benefit the beloved. There will be a special hatred for the evil in the beloved and the evil that touches the beloved, but Paul’s expression is general. He is saying that the person who really loves with the deep fervor of Christian *agapē* will have a holy hatred for every evil thing.

With this is joined *cling to what is good*, where there is another picturesque verb. It can mean “to glue”, though this use does not occur in the New Testament. But it indicates that the tie it denotes is of the closest sort. The Christian’s attachment to the good is a very firm tie, and not a casual approval. The Christian is committed to the way of goodness; his whole life is wrapped up in it (“glued” to it).

~ Leon Morris, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 444.



**Strong adhesive**

## Matthew 7:24-29

<sup>24</sup>“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup>But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” <sup>28</sup>When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup>because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.







**SOLA**  
**SCRIPTURA**  
SCRIPTURE ALONE

— 1 COR. 4:6 —

# Love must be sincere

## *2. The Devotion to one another*

### **Romans 12:10, 13a**

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## Luke 18:9-14

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3rd :21.5 SHOTS

SJ 1 20

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MIN EMPTY NET



3rd :17.7 SHOTS

SJ 1 20

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MIN EMPTY NET



3rd :15.7 SHOTS

SJ 1 20

MIN 0 39

MIN EMPTY NET

StarTribune enterprise

Coca-Cola

AT&T

HIWAY

POLARIS

Xcel Energy

usbank



3rd :15.0 SHOTS

SJ 1 20

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# Love must be sincere

## *3. The Practice of Hospitality*

### **Romans 12:13b-16**

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Another dimension of Christian love is the practice of hospitality. The need to give shelter and food to visitors was great in the NT world, there being few hotels or motels. And the need among Christians was exacerbated by the many traveling missionaries and other Christian workers. Hence the NT frequently urges Christians to offer hospitality to others (see 1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:8; Heb. 13:2; 1 Pet. 4:9). But Paul does more than that here; he urges us to “pursue” it—to go out of our way to welcome and provide for travelers.

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# Barriers to Hospitality

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## 1. Not Believing the Gospel



# Barriers to Hospitality

## 2. FOMO



# Barriers to Hospitality

## 3. Viewing People as a threat



# Barriers to Hospitality

## 4. Inability/Unwillingness to LISTEN



Too often spouses, and also parents with their children, reduce conversations to logistics such as what to have for dinner, whose turn it is to do the laundry, or when to leave for soccer practice. Friends might run down their latest accomplishments and activities. What often gets left out is what is really on people's minds — their joys, struggles, hopes and fears. Sometimes people keep conversation light with friends and family because they assume they already know what's going on, but also, they may be afraid of what they might learn. But what is love if not a willingness to listen to and be a part of another person's evolving story? A lack of listening is a primary contributor to feelings of loneliness.



In a 2018 survey of 20,000 Americans, almost half said they did not have meaningful in-person social interactions, such as having an extended conversation with a friend, on a daily basis. About the same proportion said they often felt isolated and left out even when others were around.

Of course, technology doesn't help. Devices are a constant distraction, and people tend to be woefully inaccurate at interpreting feeling states through text and emoji. What exactly does a smiley face with its tongue sticking out mean?



“Technology magnifies the closeness-communication bias because you have less information to work with,” said Dr. Epley, referring to the brevity of texts and absence of cues like tone of voice and body language.



It turns out the best way for us to really understand those closest to us is to spend time with them, put down our phones and actually listen to what they have to say.

~ Kate Murphy, *You're Not Listening. Here's Why*. New York Times article, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 accessed on 2/15/2020 @ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/11/well/family/listening-relationships-marriage-closeness-communication-bias.html>

# Gospel Application

*Will you let the gospel of Jesus  
(as you are loved) move in you  
so that your love is sincere?*