

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:9-13 (ESV)**

**<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.**

Christian Fellowship is a FACT

**Romans 12:4-5 (ESV)** <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Practicing Christian fellowship is all about GENUINE LOVE (v9a)

What does practicing Christian fellowship (with genuine love) look like?

**I. ABHOR WHAT IS EVIL; HOLD FAST TO WHAT IS GOOD (v9b)**

- to "abhor what is evil"= to hate (exceedingly) SIN
- to "hold fast to what is good"= to cling to and love what God says

Hating sin vs. hating a sinner

Hating sin starts with hating the sin within our own hearts

**Mathew 7:3-5 (ESV)** <sup>3</sup> Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

To simply accept and tolerate sin in each other's lives is to fail to genuinely love

**II. LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH BROTHERLY AFFECTION (v10a)**

- Love and treat each other like FAMILY

**III. OUTDO ONE ANOTHER IN SHOWING HONOR (v10b)**

- To desire to GIVE honor to others, rather than RECEIVE honor for yourself

**HOW CAN WE DO THIS?**

- The gospel provides the motivation
- The Holy Spirit provides the power

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Are there brothers or sisters in your life who regularly confront you on your sin, while encouraging you to pursue holiness? If not, why is that? If so, what sort of impact have they had in your experience of fellowship (with God and with one another)?
2. How can we, as a community group, create a culture where we genuinely love one another this way (hating sin and loving what is good)? What steps can you personally take to help foster this?
3. Are there Christians in your life that you struggle to see and treat as family? If so, what steps can you take to start seeing and treating them that way?
4. How can we, as a community group, create a culture where we “outdo one another in showing honor?” What steps can you personally take to help foster this?