

# LG | Leader

## [Romans 12:9-21 – Self Guided]

### WARM-UP (10 mins)

Prepare your mind to receive God's word. Take a moment to be silent. Pray for your mind to receive God's Word.

### ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Read chapter 12:9-21. Paul speaks of loving others in this passage. What is the one of the criteria for this pure love that Paul speaks of? Where in the Bible can we read about what love is and is not?  
Love must be genuine. Love cannot be reduced to sentimentalism. What real love is and is not can be found in a chapter many are familiar with; 1 Corinthians 13. [Reflective Question: When you say you "love" something, do your actions reflect 1 Corinthians 13?].
2. Why do you think Paul includes hospitality in these "Marks of a True Christian"?  
Hospitality was crucial for early Christians. Many Christians were not looked upon favorably by the culture around them and they could not afford lodging accommodations. Traveling depended on the provision of fellow believers.
3. Our culture has a fascination with evil and dark imagery. What does this passage have to say about evil? What are some examples of how we can become participants in evil?  
Abhor what is evil. Christians should have disgust and hate for evil. Flirting with evil can have catastrophic consequences in the life of a believer. We can become participants in evil by the shows and movies we choose to watch, the type of music we listen to, the way we browse the internet, etc.
4. How would you summarize verses 14-21? Generally, how are we to treat others? Does Paul think that you should be at peace with everyone?  
We are to love others. We are to live humble lives that elevate others, even our enemies. Paul says that we are to try to live peaceably with all, but that is not always possible. You will be disliked and even persecuted by some.
5. How does Philippians 2:1-11 instruct us on how to treat others? What does it practically look like to count others more significant than ourselves?  
Philippians 2:2-11 instructs us to have the same mind as Paul, one who is constantly thinking about the interests of others. Counting others as more significant than ourselves is not something that

happens overnight, it takes daily focus and practice to have the mind of Paul, which is ultimately the mind of Jesus.

6. In Philippians 4, Paul speaks about the relationship between Euodia and Syntyche. What do we know about them and how does Paul instruct them? How does Paul apply what he says in Philippians 2:1-11 to this situation?

Euodia and Syntyche were fellow laborers in the Gospel with Paul and a part of the church in Philippi. These women were at odds over an unnamed disagreement. Paul encourages reconciliation between them and asks the believers around them to help them overcome this disagreement. Paul is essentially asking these disagreeing believers to look not only to their own interest, but also to the interest of others; to use Christ's example of humility.

7. Considering others takes making a daily pursuit. What other passages in Scripture come to mind concerning our how we strive toward this "others-focused" mindset? How does the Holy Spirit help us in this effort?

Examples:

**Colossians 3:2** – set your mind on things above, not earthly things;

**John 14:26** - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

8. Does your life align with these "Marks of a True Christian"? The Bible says that it pierces (Hebrews 4:12); what verses cut you the deepest when reading this passage?

[Reflective]

## **PRAY**

**Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.**