

WALKING IN LOVE

Romans 13–16 | Dave Geldart | 11/23/25 | Tru Community Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS – ANTONIO

- 1) Welcome: Connect Cards + Giving
- 2) PIE & KARAOKE NIGHT tonight 530 – bring a pie (sweet, savory, pizza) and a friend. Prizes!
- 3) Advent – preparing for Christmas! – starts next Sunday!
 - 3a) Help Decorate This Room Tomorrow & Tues (sign up with Jenn, snacks)
 - 3b) Xmas Cookies Each Sunday – sign up now to bring some beginning next Sun!
- 4) More details and event info online at TRU.CHURCH
- 5) (PRAY FOR THE SERMON)

1. [1] INTRODUCTION (Opening Illustration: “The Romans Road”)

- a. Imagine a long, ancient Roman road stretching from one horizon to the other
 - i. straight, purposeful, and built to last.
- b. Such roads were feats of engineering:
 - i. layered stone, sand, and gravel; crowned so water ran off; designed not just for efficiency but endurance.
- c. Scholars note many were built so well that you can still walk them 2,000 years later.
- d. Picture yourself stepping onto such a road at dawn.
 - i. You hear the crunch of gravel beneath your sandals, feel the weight of the journey ahead, and sense that every step is leading somewhere.
 - ii. A Roman road always had a destination.
 1. All roads lead to ROME!
- e. Romans—Paul’s letter—reads like such a road.
 - i. **Leading us not only to Rome, but to a truly victorious life!**

2. As we end this study today, let’s begin by looking in back at WHERE WE HAVE WALKED: A QUICK JOURNEY Down Memory Lane THROUGH ROMANS

- a. [2] We’ve been walking through Romans since August!
 - i. Discovering what a victorious life truly looks like
- b. **Transition:** Before we plant both feet on this final stretch of the road in Romans 13–16, we need to remember the terrain we’ve covered.
 - i. These themes are not isolated—they build toward a destination.
 - ii. Every mile marker has prepared us for this last one.
- c. [3] We began at the far horizon with the brokenness of humanity (Romans 1–4 – **The Gospel we Stand In**),
 - i. **The Broken Road Beneath Our Feet**
 1. Paul begins with the universal problem: sin fractures every road we build.

2. The road is cracked, broken, washed out, impassable by our own strength.
3. Illustration: **Potholes**
 - a. Think of a road so riddled with potholes that you can't drive more than 3 mph without damaging the car.
 - i. **Like when you're driving east and cross the line from KS into MO.**
 - ii. You don't need a sign – your car's suspension will tell you exactly when you've crossed over!
 - b. Humanity's self-made roads are like that—broken moral infrastructure.
- d. [4] Then rises toward the mountain heights of justification by faith in Jesus and a life lived by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5-8: **The Gospel We Walk In**),
 - i. **The Cross Builds a New Road**
 1. God lays a new foundation—solid, level, secure—paved with grace.
 - a. Crosses the “Great Divide”, the chasm we could never leap
 - ii. **Romans 6–8: The Spirit Walks With Us on the Road**
 1. we sometimes wander off the pavement.
 - a. But the Spirit pulls us back again:
 2. Romans 8 is the scenic stretch—high above the treeline
 - a. freedom, hope, adoption, glory.
 - b. Glorious vistas on either side
- e. [5] Now we get to the final section of the Road: **The Gospel we Share (9-16)**:
 - i. **Romans 9–12: The Road is Bigger Than We Thought**
 1. God's plan is long.
 2. This road reaches back to Abraham and forward to the healing of peoples – His Gospel meant to be shared with everyone!
 3. His grand vision is that humanity be transformed TOGETHER in the body of Christ
 - ii. **So as we start today with the last few chapters, the final stretch of the final section of the Romans Road,**
 1. We remember that everything in Romans has led us to this destination – the truly Good life God's Got for us
 2. Paul's final lesson to the Romans, and to us today:
 - iii. **The final and ultimate life of victory is a life spent:**
 1. [6] **Walking in Love (Romans 13–16)**

3. WALKING IN LOVE IS THE GOAL OF THE JOURNEY:

- a. **the endpoint of the whole ROAD is LOVE**
- b. Illustration: **Google Maps recalculating**
 - i. No matter how many wrong turns you make, that voice says, “Recalculating... Turn again toward love.”
 - ii. The Spirit of God we’ve now received as adopted and beloved Children of God, **He always leads us toward love.**
 - iii. Love, not as a feeling but as a lifestyle—a way of walking.
- c. So today, I want to describe the **4 KEY MILE MARKERS on this final stretch of the victorious road of love:**
 - i. These are not steps; they are conditions of the heart of one who walks in love.

4. [7] Mile Marker 1: LOVE MOVES TOWARD OTHERS (Romans 13)

- a. **Romans 13:8 — Love is an ACTIVE DEBT**
 - i. **Romans 13:8-10 (NIV):** ⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
 - ii. Paul is clear: love is not an accessory to Christian life; it is the destination of Christian life
 - 1. The culmination and Fulfillment of everything that’s come before...
 - 2. All of The Old Testament’s Law, all of the prophetic dreams, all of the commands converge here: **Love.**
 - iii. It’s not a suggestion, but rather an ongoing obligation we have toward God and others
 - 1. To CONTINUE loving
 - 2. Not a one-and-done fulfillment, but a ONGOING LIFESTYLE
 - iv. Love is not a passive feeling, it’s an active choice
 - 1. This love pursues
 - 2. Takes the initiative
 - 3. TO move toward others – initiating – not waiting for them to come to you.
 - v. And it’s not based on our feelings.

1. Paul doesn't say "wait until you feel love."
2. He commands us to **move toward one another**.
3. It is a willful act, apart from natural desire.

vi. I see this play out most clearly in my marriage

1. Especially after we've had a fight
 - a. MARRITAL GROWTH MOMENT
2. And where my feelings have been hurt in some way
3. In those times where even my bride feels like the enemy
 - a. I sense God's Spirit reminding me that it's THEN that I'm called to love
 - b. To be the first to move toward, no matter what I'm feeling
 - i. **Jenn's WAY Better at this than I am!**
4. Because at the end of the day, Love's not a feeling
 - a. **Love's a CHOICE**
5. Amen?

vii. How does this simple truth liberate you to walk this road today?

b. [8] Romans 13:11–13 — Wake up and walk differently

- i. "The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber..."
- ii. "So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."
- iii. "Let us behave decently, as in the daytime..."
- iv. Love is intentional, urgent, directional.
 1. Love requires decisive, forward motion.
 2. Moving away from selfish living
- v. Moving toward forgiveness and reconciliation, even when it's awkward.
- vi. Moving toward the lonely instead of hoping someone else will.

c. Romans 13:14 — Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

- i. This is a very active image.
- ii. To "put on Christ" means to walk like Him:
 1. To put on Christ like your walking shoes, ready to walk in HIS way — toward others, not away.

5. [9] MILE MARKER 2: LOVE MAKES SPACE FOR OTHERS (Romans 14–15)

- a. **Transition:** If the first mile marker draws us toward people, the **second keeps us from running them off the road.**

- b. Paul's entire discussion about the "strong" and "weak" is fundamentally about **making space**.
- c. **[10] Romans 14:1 (NIV): "Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters."**
 - i. Paul is talking about real issues the Roman believers were facing
 - 1. Is it ok to eat specific foods (particularly meat from the market that had been sacrificed to idols)
 - 2. Is it ok to drink alcohol?
 - 3. observe holy days
 - ii. matters of conscience.**
 - 1. Paul says all these are permissible through the Gospel, as those stronger in faith realize
 - 2. But some aren't there yet, believing they must honor God by abstaining from some of these same things.
 - a. And Paul affirms, that for them, they must honor their consciences before the Lord
 - iii. The way of Love avoids two dangers:**
 - 1. The weaker judging the strong (For their freedom to engage)
 - 2. The stronger looking down on the weak (for their immature understanding of Grace and freedom)
 - iv. Love calls us to ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER**
- d. **[11] Romans 14:19 (NIV): "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."**
- e. Illustration: **The Road Narrows**
 - i. Think of a long drive where the two-lane highway suddenly becomes one.
 - ii. Everyone must slow down, merge, and give space.
 - iii. Certainly causes things to back up
 - 1. The going goes slower
 - 2. Many opportunities for annoyance and selfishness!
 - iv. But love merges well.**
 - 1. Doesn't demand to go first
 - 2. It waits patiently and invites others to go first
- f. **Paul says we should willingly not exercise our freedom if it will harm another's conscience.**
 - i. This is countercultural in America.
 - 1. We worship personal rights.

2. But in the kingdom of God, love > rights
- ii. **Freedom is real — but freedom bows before love.**
 1. In fact, Jesus shows us that this love is self-sacrificial
 2. It's most highly expressed in willingly GIVING UP rights and preferences in order to care for and love others
3. **[12] Romans 15:3 (NIV): "For even Christ did not please himself..."**
- iii. **Godly Love is most potent when it disadvantages itself for the good of another.**
- g. **Modern Examples:** Weak/strong brothers and sisters today might differ on:
 - i. Alcohol, but also questions about:
 - ii. Politics
 - iii. Movies & Shows
 - iv. Worship styles
 - v. Various cultural preferences
- h. **Application for Our Church:**
 - i. A church like ours on relational mission must be a church of wide shoulders
 1. extra space on the road for the slower walker, the newer believer, the person who doesn't see everything your way.
 - ii. **Old African proverb:** If you want to go fast, go alone. But if you want to go far, go together!

6. **[13] MILE MARKER 3: LOVE IS BUILD ON RELATIONSHIPS (Romans 16)**

- a. **Transition:** Romans 16 looks like a list of names...
 - i. At first glance it feels like a phone book.
 - ii. But it is actually a masterpiece of relational beauty.
 - iii. Paul names real people, with real stories, real value.
 1. Paul is showing us: This is what the Christian life looks like when it is lived out in love.
 - iv. This is relational love in ink.
 1. A web of loving relationships nexused with Paul.
 2. He greets:
 - a. 26 people by name
 - b. Jews and Gentiles
 - c. rich and poor
 - d. house churches
 - e. couples

- f. singles
- g. servants
- h. leaders
- i. long-time partners
- j. brand new believers
- k. men and women

3. Junia Nugget:

- a. [14] Paul includes individuals like **Junia**, a woman whom he calls “outstanding among the apostles” (16:7).
 - b. Reminds us that the early church recognized and valued gifted women in ministry—an echo of the radical relational equality the Gospel produces.
 - c. And part of the reason why we Wesleyans have long affirmed and elevated the expression of both men and women’s Spiritual gifts within the body, including in leadership
- b. So as Romans comes to a close, Paul in the final chapter teaches us:
- i. **Love is necessarily built on relationships**
 - ii. Love sees people.
 - iii. Love names people.
 - iv. Love honors the contributions of others.
 - v. Love builds deep spiritual friendships.
 - vi. Love actually does life together with them.
- c. [15] **“No matter how little money we have, no matter what rung we occupy on anybody’s corporate ladder of success, in the end what everybody discovers is that what matters is other people. Human beings who give themselves to relational greatness—who have friends they laugh with, cry with, learn with, fight with, dance with, live and love and grow old and die with—these are the human beings who lead magnificent lives.”**
- i. ***John Ortberg Jr., Everybody’s Normal Till Your Get To Know Them***
- d. Romans 16 is the biblical embodiment of Ortberg’s words:
- i. *“These are the human beings who lead magnificent lives.”*
- e. This is what I LONG FOR
- i. That at my funeral, people would be able to say, he gave himself fully to other people
 - 1. Invested his life in loving others

- ii. That the legacy of my life would be love, people who I've loved and been loved by
- iii. [16] Last Wednesday our LIFE Group celebrated "friendsgiving" at the Swansons
 - 1. Not just a party
 - 2. Not only our group, but friends, alumni, neighbors,
 - 3. A relational web of care and love
 - a. People who I've come to love deeply, from the heart
 - b. And who've come to love one another
 - 4. A picture, a glimpse of what Paul is describing in Romans 16
 - a. HIS family of love
 - b. Though he never married and had a biological family
 - c. He created it wherever he went
 - d. A glimpse of heaven itself...
 - i. ALREADY, and Not yet
- f. Still today through his letter Paul is encouraging and calling US forward –
 - i. As he told the Corinthian church, "emulate me as I emulate Christ"
 - ii. Give your life to relational greatness
 - iii. Love others until they feel it.
 - iv. Give away your preferences, your rights, your selfish desires, what this world tells you you deserve
 - v. And exchange it for an eternal family, steeped in love
- g. **Application Qs:**
 - i. [17] Who is on your road with you?
 - ii. Whose name would you write in your own Romans 16?
 - iii. How can you honor, thank, encourage, and bless them?

7. [18] MILE MARKER 4: LOVE WALKS IN VICTORY (Romans 16:20, 25–27)

- a. **Transition:** The final bend of the road gives us the view of the horizon.
- b. [19] Romans 16:20 (NIV): *"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."*
 - i. Callback to the beginning of Genesis: The protoevangelium – THE FIRST GOSPEL
 - 1. [20] Genesis 3:15 – [God Speaking to satan] *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*
 - 2. Right after we sinned and joined Satan's rebellion

- a. God promises he won't leave us that way
 - b. A savior will come, born of a woman, who would crush satan's head.
 - c. FULFILLED BY JESUS ON THE CROSS!
- 3. Now restated to the Romans with a glorious shift
- 4. It's not just JESUS who crushes Satan, but HIS PEOPLE, in Him.
 - a. YOUR FEET – God's great victory accomplished on the Cross through Christ, and in an ONGOING WAY through his redeemed people!
 - b. **Jew + Gentile. Men & Women. Strong + weak. The beloved community TOGETHER walking in victory over Satan and his works...**
- 5. Victory, not only on the sidelines, but in the game itself!
 - ii. Love is not naïve.
 - 1. Love is not weak.
 - 2. Love is not merely sentimental.
- c. **Love is victorious.**
 - i. Love stands firm until the final day.
 - ii. Love overcomes evil.
- d. And then Paul ends with a glorious doxology:
- e. **[21] Romans 16:25–27 (NIV):** *"²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen."*

8. APPLICATION: HOW WE WALK IN LOVE TOGETHER

- a. Now we stand where Romans ends, at the sign that reads:
 - i. **"LOVE — 0 Miles"**
 - 1. You have arrived.
 - ii. Or better: **"Love Begins Here."**
- b. So let's ask: What does walking in love look like for us and *our* church at this stretch of the road?

c. **[22] What Walking in Love Looks Like**

- i. You cultivate a network of people you love — and who love you.
- ii. Others regularly see your heart.
 - 1. *No masks. No pretense.*
 - 2. *Real love requires real visibility.*
- iii. You tell and show people that you love and care for them.
- iv. You practice vulnerability.
- v. You serve and minister together.
- vi. You regularly talk about God — His goodness, His work in your life.
- vii. You intertwine your lives — life beyond Sunday services
- viii. People know you accept them.
- ix. You know they accept you.
- x. You frequently encourage one another.
- xi. [23] You refuse to quarrel about secondary issues.
- xii. When conflict happens, you engage with humility and compassion.
- xiii. You regularly defer your preferences for others.
- xiv. You return that favor, allowing them to gift you your way from time to time
- xv. There is laughter and time together.
 - 1. *Love cannot be microwaved.*
- xvi. You bear with their weaknesses...and they bear with yours.
- xvii. You speak well of others.
- xviii. You commend and celebrate others.
- xix. Everyone feels invited and comfortable — but also challenged.
- xx. [24] We move toward outsiders, newcomers, disconnected people, and the needy — both within our church and out in our neighborhoods.
- xxi. Needs genuinely get met.
 - 1. The lonely find friends (Romans 12:15).
 - 2. The weak are supported (Romans 15:1).
 - 3. The fearful are comforted (Romans 8:15).
- xxii. The Gospel is clearly communicated — in word and deed.
- xxiii. Humility fills the atmosphere.
- xxiv. Grateful joy marks everything we do
- xxv. **Don't you want to be a part of a church like that?**

9. [25] 4 KEY CHALLENGES:

- a. **Keep walking toward our others, not waiting for them to initiate.**
- b. **Practice giving up your rights and preferences to bless another.**

c. Write your own Romans 16 paragraph this week.

- i. To reflect on who you're already connected deeply with, and prayerfully consider how God is wanting to grow your relational connections

d. Ask God to enlarge your heart.

- i. Love stretches us, but it makes us more like Christ.

10. CONCLUSION: WALKING THE HIGH ROAD OF LOVE

- a. Walking in victory is not measured by how much Scripture we know, how much theology we can articulate, how much spiritual experience we accumulate.

- i. **Walking in victory is measured by love.**

- ii. **Period.**

b. [26] Final Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 (NIV): --- IF TIME

- i. *12:31 And yet I will show you the most excellent way.*

- 1. **THE HIGH ROAD OF LOVE** that goes along the heights

- ii. *13:1 If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

[27] *⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

⁸ Love never fails [FALLS]. ...

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

c. [28] And So — Let's Walk IN LOVE

- i. Let's take the next step on this road together.
- ii. Let's walk in love — the road Romans has been preparing us for all along.
- iii. And in so doing, Walk in Victory
- iv. The Good life you've always wanted, that God wants for you, and all who follow him
- v. Amen.

d. PRAY





WALKING IN **V**ICTORY
THROUGH ROMANS

WALKING IN VICTORY
THROUGH ROMANS

THE GOSPEL WE STAND IN (I-4)



WALKING IN VICTORY
THROUGH ROMANS

THE GOSPEL WE WALK IN (5-8)

A watercolor illustration showing the lower legs and feet of several people walking on a reflective surface. The style is artistic and painterly, with visible brushstrokes and a soft, blended color palette. The people are wearing various styles of shoes, including sneakers and loafers. The background is a mix of warm and cool tones, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall mood is one of movement and progress.

WALKING IN VICTORY

THROUGH ROMANS

THE GOSPEL WE SHARE (9-16)

A watercolor illustration showing the lower legs and feet of several people walking on a reflective surface. The style is artistic and painterly, with visible brushstrokes and a soft, blended color palette. The people are wearing various styles of shoes, including sneakers and dress shoes. The background is a mix of warm and cool tones, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

WALKING IN VICTORY

THROUGH ROMANS

WALKING IN LOVE (13-16)

#1: LOVE MOVES TOWARD OTHERS

Romans 13:8-10 ⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.



#1: LOVE MOVES TOWARD OTHERS

Romans 13:11-14 The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber... So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ... Let us behave decently, as in the daytime... Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.



#2: LOVE MAKES SPACE FOR OTHERS



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Romans 14:19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Romans 15:3 For even Christ did not please himself...



#3: LOVE IS BUILT ON RELATIONSHIPS

Romans 16 I commend to you our sister Phoebe... Priscilla and Aquila... Epenetus... Mary... Andronicus and Junia, ...They are outstanding among the apostles... Ampliatus... Urbanus... Stachys... Apelles... Aristobulus... Herodion... Narcissus... Tryphena and Tryphosa... Persis... Rufus...and his mother... Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas... Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, Olympas... Timothy, my co-worker, sends his greetings to you, as do Lucius, Jason and Sosipater... Tertius... Gaius... Erastus... Quartus send you their greetings.



#3: LOVE IS BUILT ON RELATIONSHIPS

Romans 16 I commend to you our sister Phoebe... Priscilla and Aquila... Epenetus... Mary... Andronicus and **Junia**, ...They are **outstanding among the apostles**... Ampliatus... Urbanus... Stachys... Apelles... Aristobulus... Herodion... Narcissus... Tryphena and Tryphosa... Persis... Rufus...and his mother... Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas... Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, Olympas... Timothy, my co-worker, sends his greetings to you, as do Lucius, Jason and Sosipater... Tertius... Gaius... Erastus... Quartus send you their greetings.



#3: LOVE IS BUILT ON RELATIONSHIPS

“No matter how little money we have, no matter what rung we occupy on anybody’s corporate ladder of success, in the end what everybody discovers is that what matters is other people. Human beings who give themselves to relational greatness—who have friends they laugh with, cry with, learn with, fight with, dance with, live and love and grow old and die with—these are the human beings who lead magnificent lives.”

John Ortberg, “Everybody’s Normal Till Your Get To Know Them”



#3: LOVE IS BUILT ON RELATIONSHIPS



#3: LOVE IS BUILT ON RELATIONSHIPS

- Who is on your road with you?
- Whose name would you write in your own Romans 16?
- How can you honor, thank, encourage, and bless them?



#4: LOVE WALKS IN VICTORY



#4: LOVE WALKS IN VICTORY

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.



#4: LOVE WALKS IN VICTORY

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.



#4: LOVE WALKS IN VICTORY

Romans 16:25-27 ²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.



WALKING IN LOVE LOOKS LIKE:

- You cultivate a network of people you love and who love you (12:5)
- Others regularly see your heart. (12:9)
- You tell and show people that you love and care for them (12:10)
- You practice vulnerability. (12:15)
- You serve and minister together. (12:6-8)
- You regularly talk about God. (1:11–12)
- You intertwine your lives — life beyond services. (12:13)
- People know you accept them and you know they accept you. (15:7)
- You frequently encourage one another. (1:12, 14:19)



WALKING IN LOVE LOOKS LIKE:

- You refuse to quarrel about secondary issues. (14:1)
- When conflict happens, you engage well. (12:18)
- You regularly defer your preferences for others. (14:15)
- You return that favor to others.
- There is laughter and time together. (12:12)
- You bear with their weaknesses...and they bear with yours. (15:1)
- You speak well of others. (12:10)
- You commend and celebrate others (16)
- Everyone feels invited, comfortable—but also challenged. (15:14)



WALKING IN LOVE LOOKS LIKE:

- We move toward outsiders, newcomers, the disconnected, and the needy, both within our church and in our neighborhoods. (15:1–2)
- Needs genuinely get met. (12:13)
- The lonely find friends. (12:15)
- The weak are supported. (15:1)
- The fearful are comforted. (8:15)
- The Gospel is clearly communicated (1:16)
- Humility fills the atmosphere. (12:3)
- Grateful joy marks everything. (12:12; 15:13)



4 KEY CHALLENGES

1. Keep walking toward others, not waiting for them to initiate.
2. Practice giving up your rights and preferences to bless another.
3. Write your own Romans 16 paragraph this week.
4. Ask God to enlarge your heart.



THE HIGH ROAD OF LOVE

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 ^{12:31} And yet I will show you the most excellent way. ^{13:1} If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.



THE HIGH ROAD OF LOVE

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

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