

January 11, 2026

Reframing Motivation
Romans 12:9-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. - Romans 12:9-21

OVERVIEW

- When love is tempted to perform (vv. 9-13)
(Rom. 8:1-4; Ps. 51:1-10; Gal. 2:19-21)
- When wounds are still open (vv. 14-18)
(Prov. 15:1; Eph. 4:1-3)
- When the instinct is to strike back (vv. 19-21)
(Matt. 5:35-45; Luke 23:32-34; 2 Pet. 2:21-24)

Three questions:

What is driving my _____ to love or live differently?

(Choose one to fill out later on your own)

Currently, my actions are driven by _____.

Currently, my actions are driven more by _____ than _____.

Am I actively seeking to _____ with the Holy Spirit's transformative work? Rom. 8:5-11; Phil. 2:12-13

How have I _____ God's heart through the _____ of others? Heb. 10:23-25; Eph. 5:19-21

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

What stood out most from this message, and why?

When you hear the word 'motivation,' how does it frame passages like Romans 12? Why is it important to remember that Paul wrote these words to Jewish and Gentile Christians who were in the midst of real conflict?

Reread Romans 12:9-13 slowly. Which word, phrase, or instruction stands out to you right now, and why do you think it caught your attention?

Paul begins with "Let love be genuine (without hypocrisy)." Where and why are you most tempted to 'wear a mask' in your relationships, and how do these words challenge you?

Which part of Romans 12:14-18 feels the most consistently counter to your inclinations: blessing instead of cursing, staying present in joy or grief, humility, or pursuing peace?

Consider the earlier words of Romans 8:1: "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." How does this truth reshape the way you think about effort and how we engage with the Holy Spirit's work? Why do words like 'effort' and 'hard work' sometimes (or often) get dismissed in Christian circles, and why might it be important to reclaim them?

Can you think of someone whose life reflects the kind of love Paul describes in Romans 12, not perfectly, but faithfully? How have you been impacted by someone who was being formed like Jesus in a way that Paul describes in Romans 12, not perfectly, but faithfully? How might sharing that with them encourage both of you?

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Three questions:

What is driving my EFFORTS to love or live differently?

(Choose one to fill out later on your own)

Currently, my actions are driven by _____.

Currently, my actions are driven more by _____ than _____.

Am I actively seeking to ENGAGE with the Holy Spirit's transformative work? Rom. 8:5-11; Phil. 2:12-13

How have I EXPERIENCED God's heart through the WORSHIP of others? Heb. 10:23-25; Eph. 5:19-21

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