

# Weekly Message Study Guide

ChristChurch.us/SmallGroups



Date \_\_\_\_\_ Speaker \_\_\_\_\_

## **PURSUE THE COMMON GOOD | 12:21 | Week 3 | Nov 1**

Romans 12:9-16; 1 Corinthians 12:7

*These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.*

**CONTEXT** | Remember Paul wrote Romans 12 to remind the Church of its identity and mission. Paul has been saying that what makes the followers of Jesus different... what allows them to be the kind of transforming salt and light that every society needs... and how they will be champions for the GOOD of everyone..

**Romans 12:9 Sincere Love** | Read 1 Corinthians 12:7. Paul is addressing a unique capacity for love and relationship within the church. What is Paul saying about the relationships among the diversity of the church?

- Combining the intent of these two verses, what kind of love do you imagine? Describe It In a word. Go around the group and make a list of the adjectives you Imagined.
- Share how you manifest this sincere love throughout your week? Especially to those you don't get along with.

**Outward perspective** | Look at Romans 12:9, 10 & 13.

- How does the contrast between evil and good inform the way we love? Talk about the difference.
- To whom or to what would you say gets most of your devotion and honor? Be honest.
- How would you imagine acting this out in relationship—giving devotion and honor to others?

**Hospitality** | In vs. 13 Paul combines the ideas of need and hospitality.

- How do you think about hospitality?
- Have you ever considered hospitality as meeting a need? How does it change when you think that way?
- Describe the needs that might be answered by hospitality? How can we practice that in our lives today, even in our current situation?

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**Live "with" |** Paul instructs the church in vs 15-16 about being with each other.

- List the ways he calls us to “be with” in these two verses?
- Which is most convicting? Which comes easiest for you?
- What do you think of when you read vs. 16? What is lowly position? Read this verse in different Bible translations. As a group write a definition of “harmony” based on this verse.

**Individualism |** Paul is speaking here to the Church which exists in a culture of world power, active armies and spoils of war. You do not want to be part of the spoils of an invading army. You want to be a part of the winning side. Pastor Dan quotes David Brooks in describing our culture as increasingly individualistic.

- How does individualism affect Paul’s message? What part of the instruction becomes more important?
- In what ways do we have a more difficult task than the Roman church? Talk about what comes up for you.
- Can you share a way that individualism of the culture may have “conformed” you, that you are realizing right now?

**Culture within Culture |** Paul is passionate about impacting the culture of the Church. His passion for the Church is to impact the world, the culture within which the Church exists. Paul literally wants THE CHURCH to change the World. “While politics is based on the premise that society must be changed in order to change people, in the politics of the Kingdom it is people who must be changed in order to change society... The Church’s role is to transform society primarily by putting on display God’s love, revealed in Jesus Christ.”

- How do you respond to the Kingdom Storyline here?
- How does that fit with what you see in this political season?
- What can you do this week to change the dialogue in your home, work, grocery store, etc?

**PRACTICE OF THE WEEK |** Sit this week with vs. 16. Meditate on Harmony and your definition of it. Each day, at the end of the day, reflect on where you felt harmony or disharmony. Pray that God would work to transform you, to be part of the Kingdom storyline in your sphere of influence especially as we prayer through the national election this week.