

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – September 11 – 16
Doing Life Together – Community of Unity Pt 1

MONDAY: 2 Corinthians 6:6, James 3:17

KEY VERSE: Romans 12:9

OBSERVATION: I challenge you to spend some time this week meditating on 12:10-21. Ask yourself repeatedly, “Do I ‘abhor what is evil?’” Am I enraged over pride, selfishness, favoritism, revenge, and other ungodly behaviors? Then ask yourself, “Do I ‘cling to what is good?’” Am I enthralled with humility, selflessness, generosity, and servanthood? Love without action is not love.

TUESDAY: John 13:34, 1 Peter 2:17

KEY VERSE: Romans 12:10

OBSERVATION: Paul issues a friendly competition to treat one another well. He wants you to lead the way in showing honor for other believers. In every sphere of your life, you ought to seek to “outdo” other believers. Look for ways to honor other believers before they honor you. Recognize other believers’ accomplishments before they honor yours. Defer to other believers before they defer to you. Look for what you can provide in a relationship rather than what you can receive. Be aggressive in giving yourself away. You’ll be surprised how quickly you can start liking someone when you begin to treat him or her with honor and respect. Love without action is not love.

WEDNESDAY: Proverbs 21:20, 1 Timothy 3:2,

KEY VERSE: Romans 12:12-13

OBSERVATION: The word translated “practicing” (dioko) is also not strong enough. The Greek word means “pursue” or “persecute.” Paul wants you to pursue hospitality. There is something special about being invited into someone’s home. It is one of the greatest expressions of love and acceptance. Yet, very few of us do this on a regular basis. Why not pick an evening that works well for you and make a goal to have others over weekly or monthly. You might just change someone’s life with an evening of Christian fellowship.

THURSDAY: 1 Corinthians 4:12, 1 Peter 3:9

KEY VERSE: Romans 12:14

OBSERVATION: Taking shots from someone we consider a friend is perhaps the toughest kind of persecution to handle. The Greek word for “bless” (eulogeo) means “to speak well of a person.” Our English word “eulogize” is taken from this Greek word. Here, to bless your persecutors is to eulogize them, to speak well of them. This requires incredible self-control and grace.

FRIDAY: Ecclesiastes 3:4, Job 30:35

KEY VERSE: Romans 12:15

OBSERVATION: If we were to share in the lives of others by experiencing their joy and feeling their grief, all kinds of walls would come crashing down. By the way, one of the practical ways we can fulfill this command is to attend weddings and funerals. That might seem like an odd exhortation, but I have noticed over the past twenty years that attending weddings and funerals is becoming less and less of a priority to many Christian people.

SATURDAY: Proverbs 3:7, Romans 12:3

KEY VERSE: Romans 12:16

OBSERVATION: All Christians have things to learn from other Christians. The problem is that we can often think like Archie Bunker who said, “I’m not prejudiced, I love all those inferior people.” We need to get over ourselves! We need to see our fellow believers accurately and biblically. We need to exercise humility (cf. 12:3, 10b). If we’re humble, we’ll never look down on anyone. We can only look up to them. May we begin to regard others as more important than ourselves (Phil 2:3). May we ensure that our Christian relationships are healthy and whole. Love without action is not love.