



## Romans 12:9-21

Effective Living in a Defective World | Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> - Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Warm-up:** If you haven't gone through the Life Group Covenant with your group, take some time to review that tonight! Specifically, spend some time discussing expectations, desires and dreams about the coming year. What will this group be all about? If your group *has* done this, begin by answering this question: *What are the most prominent "defects" you see in the lives of those closest to you who don't possess faith in Jesus Christ? (Think of neighbors, co-workers, friends)*

- Read **Romans 12:9-21** aloud. This passage is all about relationships. People who are living sacrifices work out their devotion to God in relationships with one another, and *love* is the key...even to those who oppose.
  - Within these verses there are 23 actions, which demonstrate *how* we are to love others. What emotions are stirred when you read all of these? Does it feel attainable? Why or why not?
- In what ways can we all be tempted to “**pretend to love others**”(v.9)? Why is *really* loving others so challenging? Who in particular do you sense God is asking you to *really* love in this season of life? What might this look like practically?
- Discuss whether you are able to regularly identify “**when God's people are in need**” (v.13).
  - Do you have any experience with this?
  - In what ways could you personally - or as a group - grow in being ready to help those in need within the family of God?
- Remaining in Christ (John 15) is the key to bearing fruit and walking in the ways outlined in Romans 12:9-21. We must want good fruit in our lives and trust Jesus to help us.
  - Share the state of your heart today. Do you truly desire for your life to be characterized by the kind of things you read in these verses?
  - If not, what may be going on in your heart?

**Wrap-up:** “Our most powerful weapon against evil is the good. To respond to evil with evil is not to overcome it but to add to it. Believers are called upon to live victoriously in a hostile world by continuing to live as Jesus lived. Right will inevitably prevail against wrong. God is on his throne, and though all is not right in this world, he is the one who will avenge the wicked and reward the righteous.”- Mounce, R. H. (1995). Pray for one another... that you all seek to live good lives in step with the Holy Spirit. Ask God to empower you this week!