

# A LOVING COMMUNITY

(Romans 12.9-16)

November 9th-15th, 2014



## WELCOME & SHARING

Share any announcements...

- . Our **first Sunday in the new building is Sunday, November 23rd!**
- . The next **Women's Gathering is 7pm Sunday, November 16th** @ Becca Strand's home.
- . Our annual **Christmas Party & Hymnsing is Friday, December 5th from 6-8pm.**
- . **Christmas Store Saturday, December 13th 2-5pm**

*Opener Question:* True confession: What is your favorite cheesy love song?

(e.g. Every Rose Has it's Thorn by Poison, Your Song by Elton John, Silly Love Songs by Wings, To Be With You by Mr. Big, etc.)

## STUDY/DISCUSSION

>>READ>> Romans 12.9-16

- (1) What immediately jumps out at you from this passage? What is interesting/challenging/encouraging/confusing?
- (2) What are the characteristics of love described in these verses? (e.g. genuine, familial, harmonious, empathetic, etc.)
- (3) Who is to be the object of a Christian's love? (e.g. enemies, other Christians/the saints, the lowly, the hungry, etc.)
- (4) What does this passage tell us about God and his character?

- (5) How is it possible to “never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord?” Is this passage asking the impossible? What is the relationship between spiritual fervor and the command to “be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer”?
- (6) Practically, how might we fulfill Paul’s instruction in these verses? What does this look like daily? Is there one particular instruction that is particularly applicable and challenging to a situation in YOUR life right now? Share.
- (7) Imagine a church community that seriously works to carry out these commands. What ways are we doing this as a church/community group? What ways can we GROW and improve?
- (8) How does this passage inform us on how we are to be in mission in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, etc.?

## PRAYER

*Take some time and pray together.* You can pray as a large group, break into smaller groups, split up into men and women, etc. If you share prayer requests, post them to the City so that your group can continue to be praying for each other.

Pray specifically that New City would be, and we as individual Christians would be, the kind of church that Paul describes in this passage. Even use the passage itself as a prayer guide for each other and our church.