

# Commitment, Honor & Zeal

(Insights from Romans 12:10-12)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, March 11th, 2018

## Loving God is linked to ...

(Matthew 22:36-40, 1 John 4:20-21, John 13:34-35, Romans 13:9-10)

## Being Devoted to & Honoring Others:

(Rom. 12:10)

- 1) Starts with a \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_.  
(John 15:5, Galatians 5:16-26)
- 2) Will \_\_\_\_\_ you.  
(Philippians 2:1-8)
- 3) Reveals how \_\_\_\_\_ we are.  
(John 13:1-5)
- 4) Rewards come \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(1 Peter 5:1-6)

## Defining, Developing & Displaying Spiritual Zeal:

(Romans 12:11-12, Romans 10:1-4, Proverbs 19:2-3)

- 1) Zeal is seen ...  
(Romans 12:11)
- 2) Zeal is grown ...  
(1 Timothy 4:7-10)
- 3) Zeal is helpful ...  
(Romans 12:12)

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## This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to "Week 9" of our small group season!

After this week, we only have 2 weeks left before Easter.

After Easter we'll take a week off and then start back up the week of April 8th as we launch into our last small group season before we summer. Let's continue to pray that meeting together will be a time of growth, encouragement, and fun as we deepen friendships, pray together and study God's Word together.

## Looking Back:

Each week we'll look back and have an opportunity to share with our group how the week went and also share a few things to help us get to know each other better. What is something encouraging that happened since our last meeting?

In Romans 12:10, we learned that being devoted to someone and/or choosing to honor someone starts with a decision more than an emotion. Doing right doesn't necessarily have certain feelings attached to it. When have you done something recently (big or small) that you knew was right even though strong feelings were not attached to it? Looking back, are you glad you did it? Why or why not?

We also saw that when we are devoted to others and honor others, rewards (recognition) usually comes later. Not experiencing instant gratification can be difficult in the moment as we are making right decisions. When have you had to wait for a 'reward' or a certain result after being faithful to God over a period of time?

In Romans 12:11, Paul encourages us to not be 'slothful in zeal, but fervent in spirit'. We all desire to have a greater passion for serving God and seeing more of His power manifested in our world. Speaking of passion, what else are you passionate about (really enjoy doing) that we might not be aware of?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching on Romans 12:10-12, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention or raised a question for you, encouraged you or challenged you?

## Looking Up: (DIGGING DEEPER)

1. Bob reminded us of the importance of keeping our spiritual fervor when serving God, which is especially true when times get tough and people are difficult. How might the following verses motivate us when we come upon challenging times or challenging people as we serve God?

Colossians 3:12-14

Matthew 5:43-48

Matthew 9:9-12

Think about one or two of the most difficult people you interact with. (If they are in our group - don't look at them!) How might the verses above or other passages change how you view your relationship with them?

2. Zeal is a word in the Bible described as a good thing that can also go bad when used without wisdom. What can we learn about appropriate zeal in the following verses?

2 Thessalonians 3:13

Galatians 6:9-10

1 Corinthians 15:58

3. Sometimes being 'devoted to one another in love' means taking others under our wing. The Apostle Paul is a great example of this as he consistently provides support, guidance and friendship to his younger friend Timothy. What principles of mentorship and friendship are seen in the following verses that could help us follow Paul's example?

Philippians 2:19-24

1 Timothy 4:12-16

1 Timothy 6:11-12

1 Timothy 6:20-21

Can you think of anyone who has taken you under their wing or tried to help you through tough times?

4. The last point from Sunday was that 'zeal is helpful in hardships'. Passion for God developed over a period of time of walking with God and seeing His faithfulness helps us maintain our zeal for Him when life is hard. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-18. This passage is Paul's last words we have from him before he was martyred.

What insights do you see regarding his zeal for God?

What is one or two things about Paul's faith and choices that you can include in your life the next time hardship happens?

## Looking Forward:

This last section is based on passages like the one below.

*But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.*

*James 1:22-25 (NLT)*

Let's all take a few minutes to silently pray and reflect back on last week's message and what we discussed in our group. As we reflect, let's all pray and ask God for a specific application that He might prompt us to live out this week.

Some examples to prayerfully consider:

- ask God to give you the strength to do what He is prompting you to do and not wait for a change in emotion
- to grow in your security as a Christ follower, read through stories about Jesus in the gospels to gain a better understanding of His love for you and others.
- in being more 'constant in prayer', start a prayer journal to record requests and how God answers in His time

Before we wrap up, let's share some prayer requests and pray for each other.