

May 16th, A New Look
Part 1 in the series 'Love Handles'

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

Why did Jim call this series 'Love Handles'?

READ Romans 12:1-9

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **2** Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

What do you think Paul means when he says to “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice”?

Do you think there's a connection between “true and proper worship” of God and the renewing of your mind?

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. **4** For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, **5** so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **6** We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; **7** if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; **8** if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. **9** Love must be sincere.

Why do you think Paul begins verse three with the words “For by the grace given to me”?

Why do you think God created us to have different gifts?

Do you think it's foolish to compare yourself to others?

What's it like to see somebody, their personality, traits etc., with your mind rooted in love?

James gives us this stern warning:

“Brothers and sisters, stop complaining about each other, or you will be condemned. Realize that the judge is standing at the door.” (James 5:9)

How do we reconcile this verse with the many other verses that say we are saved by grace alone, and not of ourselves?