

**May 23rd, Hating Evil Without Hating Others**  
**Part 2 in the series 'Love Handles'**

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

Was there anything you wrestled with?

When or where do you find yourself needing a reminder of God's love for others?

How does focusing on God's love for you help you to love others?

**READ 1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Why do you think Paul says that these good things are nothing without love?

Have you ever started doing something good without love behind it and then, as time went on, love became your motivator?

Sometimes we can find ourselves defining our value by what we do rather than who we are in Christ. How does God's grace play into sincerely loving one another?

Do you think it's possible to act out of love without feeling loving?

How does the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2) play into how we see others? How does love factor in?

A: refocusing our minds on their strengths, qualities, positive character traits, virtues

**Read Romans 12:9-21**

**9** Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. **10** Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. **11** Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. **12** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. **13** Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

**14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. **16** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

**17** Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. **18** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. **19** Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. **20** On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."  
**21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

What sticks out to you in this passage?

What happens when people start to hate what is evil without loving sincerely?

A: results in the hating of one another

How did Jesus exemplify love in the ways that Paul describes love in this passage?

What's the issue with repaying evil for evil?

What do you think of Paul's final statement in this passage: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."?