

Current

Simple — Not Easy

ROMANS 12:9-21

SESSION 6.35



☐ *Prepare in Advance*

Before the Session

- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.
- Read Romans 12:9-21 to familiarize yourself with the text.
- Review the article about Two Fergusons.

☐ *Introduce*

- Our scripture today tells us to “let love be genuine.” What does genuine love look like?
- Read Romans 12:9-21 out loud. Invite the group to help generate two lists: Being and Doing. What does the passage challenge people to be, and what does it challenge people to do? (Perhaps divide the group into two groups for this task).
- Show the *Bible Background Video*.

☐ *Discuss*

- Share ideas from the article about Two Fergusons. Many stories have been trending about Ferguson. The events happening there probably have many layers of truth to explore, and we should be careful to note that these events touch issues that are deeply personal to many people. One article presents a picture of the town of Ferguson, and how it seems one city has two lives. One side of town: well-kept ranch homes with manicured lawns. A park with a swimming pool and a waterslide. A coffee shop, art galleries, music venues, a handful of spas and quaint bistros. T-shirts for sale that read “I Love Ferguson.” One mile away: “you would never believe you were in the same city — let alone a place that operated under the same government on the same budget.” Broken glass, signs of poverty, protestors gathered, police presence. There are efforts to help the two sides of this city work together in the future. One church hosted an open meeting to discuss issues of race and how to move forward; the meeting was not racially diverse.

☐ *Ask*

- Our text today challenges us to let love be genuine. Think about the T-shirts sold that read “I Love

Ferguson.” What actions would make these shirts believable, in a place like Ferguson?

- Imagine this text being read aloud with people on the coffee shop side of Ferguson. Now imagine this text being read on the streets with protestors. What challenges and hope does the text offer for each of these sides of the city?
- Could a city with two vastly different sides be found anywhere else in our country? Is that familiar to where we are? How do we live out genuine love when we experience two sides of a community?
- The community leader’s meeting made efforts towards understanding racial issues. Where did they miss the mark? What else would make a difference there?
- One leader offered a way to move toward peace: He invited the former mayor and all the cops to his area for a BBQ this weekend. “You wanna see real Ferguson, come down to our neighborhood.” How does “coming to the neighborhood” move us towards genuine love?

Pray together end the session.

By Erin Hall

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