

HELLO
my name is

Renaissance
Church

Ideal vs Real

September 21 & 22, 2013

[Romans 12:9-18](#)

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. (Romans 12:9-18 NIV)

Consider & Discuss

1. What are the major roles you play in life? Which ones are the most life-giving? Which are the most life-draining?
2. Do any of your roles conflict with one another? How do you resolve the tension?
3. Which of your relationships are the most encouraging? Which are the most discouraging?
4. Do you find the "ideal" to be a motivation for improving the "real," or are you discouraged because you don't live up to the "ideal"?
5. Read [Romans 12:9-18](#). What strikes you about this passage?
6. Which of the relational characteristics in this passage do you find easiest to exhibit? Which are most challenging for you?
7. What ideas do you have for how someone can grow in these areas?

Live It

1. Take some time this week to evaluate your relationships. How are you creating peace in your relationships? How are you fostering discord?
2. What practical step(s) can you take this week to improve one or more of your relationships?