

Cultivate Reflection Guide

When in Rome: How to Love Your Neighbor July 31 – August 1, 2021

If you missed this weekend's messages, watch at cultivate.sc/discussion

Since the start of 2021, we've been learning *what* we believe as Christians and *why* we believe it. As we continue our When in Rome series this summer, our focus shifts to *how* we live out what we're learning. When what we believe changes how we live, we experience REAL growth!

Use our Reflection Guide for personal study throughout the week, to start a REAL conversation with friends or under the direction of your community group leader. Choose the questions that challenge you to reflect and respond as you live out what we're learning. Keep in mind...*it's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you!*

Read Romans 13:8-10: ⁸Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. ⁹For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.

1. Think of the various ways that Jesus has shown His love for you. Linger here for a few moments, even taking out a piece of paper and writing down what comes to mind. Now, respond to God. Express your gratitude, praise or awe. If you have doubts or reluctance, tell Him that too.
2. Jesus has loved us when we have nothing to give or offer. His love isn't based on us meeting a set of criteria, conditions or expectations. Jesus doesn't love us because of who we are, but because of who He is...and we are called to be like Him. How does the way Jesus loves you challenge you in the way you are loving others?
3. Consider how the bible defines love...

⁴Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NLT

- a. Are you known by these loving characteristics? Which do you see in yourself?
- b. In which of the ways of love do you need to grow?
- c. How can you pursue that growth? Be specific, what do you need to start doing or stop doing? What could you practice more or practice less?

Dig Deeper Ask someone you love and trust, how you can love better. Listen with a teachable spirit and a heart to grow into someone who is known by their love.

4. Our love for others reflects our love for Jesus. As our love for Him grows, our love for others will too. Ask God who the "neighbor" is in your life He is calling you to love. What is one way you could share or show them God's love this week?
5. Who is someone in your life who has helped you experience God's love? Reach out and tell them what that has meant to you and how you see Jesus in them.