

9

Love That Unites

Romans 12:1-21

World War 1, the massive conflict at the beginning of the twentieth century that resulted in the deaths of over ten million soldiers, began with the death of a single individual. On July 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian throne, was shot while riding in a motorcar through Sarajevo. This incident triggered the network of alliances that were in place among the European nations and war raged for the next four years.

Huge conflict can also break out in our homes and Christian communities because of small incidents that get blown out of proportion. We are called as Christians to love one another. This love is lived out in the small practicalities of life. The ultimate outcome of loving this way is a life of peace and unity.

1. How are you affected when you hear music with beautiful harmony?

2. Read Romans 12:1-8. What aspects of God's character are the foundation for all that Paul calls us to in this passage (vv.1,3,6)?

3. How are the body and mind shown to be vitally linked in spiritual worship?

4. According to verses 3-8, how is harmony found within the body of Christ?

5. Read Romans 12:9-21. These verses continue to give practical direction for living out God's good, pleasing and perfect will. List the instructions that are given.

6. What do you think it means to "honor one another above yourselves" (v.10)?

7. How would being “joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” affect your relationship with others (v.12)?

8. How can you practice hospitality and share with others who are in need (v.13)?

9. How are the instructions in verses 14-21 particularly helpful in living at peace with everyone?

10. How would being “devoted to one another in brotherly love” support and undergird all that we are called to be in this chapter (v.10)?

11. As you look back over the instructions given in this passage, in what areas do you need to grow the most?

12. The ultimate outcome of loving one another is living in peace and unity-in harmony. How have you experienced this unity in relationships with other Christians?

Ask God to fill you with his love by his Holy Spirit. Pray that he will make you a conduit of his love and that those around you will know him better. Ask him for harmony in your Christian community and in the church around the world