

# The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

9/9/18

**Text: Romans 12:9, 11-12 (ESV)**

**Title: Stay Engaged in Hope**

**Teacher: Tim Rice**

## **Surrender through Prayer:**

*Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.*

## **Engage with the Sermon**

*Read the passage together*

In his sermon, Tim led us through part of Romans 12 as we looked at Paul's command for our Love to be "Genuine". Simply by commanding for love to be genuine recognizes that so often in our lives it isn't. As Tim talked about, there is a true value and rarity in love that actually endures and we have all experienced in one form or another, a love that has been abandoned. The problem we face is that when we fail to put our hope in Jesus as the true source of our love we either tie the jumper cables of our hearts to ourselves or to the other person, both leading to pride, exhaustion and eventually to failure as we run out of the energy and fail to be worthy of the love we receive. The beauty of the Gospel is that we can 1) stay engaged in love because Jesus engaged himself in love to the fullest extent on the cross, 2) live as Jesus did with hope in the eternal and unending love of the Father, and 3) be sourced by His very Spirit living within us. Only by being shaped by the love of God can we then show the love of God.

## **Reflection Questions:**

- 1. Tim talked about the value of someone who stays. He gave the example of Les Miserables, and said that enduring love is so valuable because it is so rare and so life-changing. Only by being shaped by the Love of God, can we then show the love of God.*
  - How in your life have you experienced abandonment, or a failure to love?**
  - When have you done the "quitting" or "abandoning"?**
- 2. Tim talked about the ongoing "battle" of love, because the reality is, fallen, sinful people trying to love other fallen, sinful people is really hard. Like a car battery, when we try to love others without first attaching to Jesus as our true source we will be utterly drained.*
  - How have you noticed yourself trying to be the source of your love for other people? ("I'll grit my teeth and love that person.")**
  - How have you noticed yourself trying to make the other person the source of your love for them? ("As long as they're \_\_\_\_\_, I'll be able to love them.")**
- 3. We have unending, unbroken hope because Jesus has fully engaged himself in our brokenness, lived with full hope in His Father to raise Him from the dead, and sourced Himself in the Spirit who lives inside every one of us.*
  - In what areas of your life do you need to stop what you're doing and attach yourself to Jesus and His Spirit in order to love well?**

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## **WORSHIP AND PRAYER:**

### **A.C.T.S.**

*(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)*

**1. ADORATION** *(The Father)*

***Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions***

**2. CONFESSION** *(Me)*

***Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited***

**3. THANKSGIVING** *(Jesus)*

***Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)***

**4. SUPPLICATION** *(Holy Spirit)*

***Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways***

**5. Prepare for Gospel Community** *(My Neighbor)*

***Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.***

### **Prayer Items**

1. Worship the LORD for His enduring, unbreakable love. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that as He is love and as He is eternal, it is impossible that His love would fail.
2. How have you lived hoping for eternal joy from a finite source? Or, how have you failed to endure in love? Confess your sin and self-reliance to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to source you for unending love.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His success where you have failed. Thank Him that He engaged with us in our guilt and ruin (coming to this world to die for us), and for anchoring our hope by His resurrection.
4. Who do you know that is weary in love? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them, to sustain them and source them for joy – even in tribulation – because of His unfailing love and presence.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of love – especially endurance and faithfulness. Pray for security in Jesus' unbreakable love for you so that you would be sourced for unending love for others.