



Resolving Everyday Conflict - Discussion Guide
Session 8: Press On With Deliberate Love
Passage: Romans 12:9-21

Introduction: In this final session we consider how we honor God in our relationships when, despite our attempts, reconciliation isn't possible. In this passage the Apostle Paul explains how the deepest experience and expression of the Gospel in our relationships is not conflict resolution but the genuine love of our enemies.



Into the Word

The word translated “be genuine” in verse 9 literally means “without hypocrisy”. Based on this passage, what’s the difference between genuine love and hypocritical love? Compare: Matthew 5:43-48

Consider verse 12. How is our hope related to joy, patience, and prayerfulness? Note: Biblical hope is marked by a certainty of outcome (God’s promises) but an uncertainty of time (fulfillment of God’s promises).

Consider verse 16. What affects our ability to live at peace with others? Our enemies? Consider: 1 Timothy 1:15
Note: This connects with the *Getting Real* aspect of pursuing peace.

Consider verse 19. What is the root of vengeance? What might vengeance look like or sound like? How can we guard against a spirit of vengeance? **(pg. 102)**
Note: This connects with *Going Higher* when pursuing peace.



Into the Heart

Are you ever tempted to give up when people don't respond well to your attempt to resolve conflict with them? Why do you think this is? **(pg. 100)**

Consider verse 21. How does the Gospel shape our view of success in conflict resolution? **(pg. 105)**



Into the World

Consider an unresolved conflict. What is the difference between giving up and living peaceable, so far as it depends on you? (v. 19)

How might your enemy be in need? How can you practically participate in meeting those needs?