**“Peace with Others”**

Going deeper in Romans 12:9-21

**INTRODUCTION** – The Apostle Paul has spent the first part of the letter to the church in Rome explaining how salvation by faith alone has come to us through Jesus Christ as an act of grace. It is something we cannot earn. Having explained that he now turns to what our lives should be like in response to God’s grace and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 9 Show real love; don’t fake it. Hate what is evil and cling to good as though your life depended on it. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love, show honor by prioritizing others. 11 Don’t slow down when it comes to faith-filled diligence, but keep your spiritual fire red hot as you serve the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, faithfully patient in hard times, and steadfast as you continue in prayer. 13 Share with followers of Jesus who are in need and industriously practice hospitality. 14 Bless your enemies; bless and don’t curse under your breath. 15 Laugh together with those who are joyful and share tears with those who are grieving. 16 Be of the same mind with one another. Don’t be so high-minded that you are not willing to associate with people who are down and out. Don’t be conceited. 17 Don’t pay back evil for evil. Practice doing good in the eyes of all people. 18 Whenever possible, as much as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Beloved, don’t take revenge for yourselves, but leave it up to God to take care of it; because it is written, “I’ll do the judging, I will take care of it.” says the Lord. 20 Our Scriptures tell us, “If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. Your generosity and goodness will really give him something to think about.” 21 Don’t let evil get the best of you, but get the best of evil by doing good.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Imagine for a moment a group of people living the way the Apostle Paul lines out here. What would be the quality of their community life together?

2. What are areas we, as church family, do well at when it comes to the pattern of life described here? What are areas we could improve on?

3. In practical terms what do you think it means to live at peace with everyone? What have you found to be helpful when it comes to being at peace with others?

4. Who have you known that was a good peacemaker? What qualities made them good at it?

5. In the area of communication what helps to create peace?

6. How could you grow as peacemaker in this coming year?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Praise the Lord Jesus for showing you what real love is.

\*Ask the Holy Spirit to give you ears to hear Him and others today.

\*Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to be a peacemaker today.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Apostle Paul in verse 18 calls you to live at peace with everyone as far as it is possible with you. How will you do that this week?