

HOW DO I EXPERIENCE AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY?

Q4 of The Profile of an Authentic Disciple

Romans 12:9-13

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✚ Five questions answered in Romans 12 help shape a disciple.

Q1: How do I give God what He wants most? 12:1

Surrender to God.

Q2: How do I get God's best for my life? 12:2

Separate from the world's values. Be changed!

Q3: How do I come to grips with the real me? 12:3-8

Be sober in self-assessment.

Q4: How do I experience authentic community? 12:9-13

Serve in love.

Q5: How do I overcome the evil aimed at me? 12:14-21

✚ On the last night of Jesus' life on earth, note His command and prayer:

Command: John 13:34-35 – Love one another radically.

Prayer: John 17:20-24 – Experience unity/community w/ one another.

✚ *How do I experience authentic community?*

God's answer is found in Romans 12:9-13.

Authentic community occurs when ...

I. _____ . 12:9

I can never be loved unless people know who I really am – the real me, not who I'm pretending to be to gain people's approval.

A. _____ – "Let love be sincere."

God takes "being real" very seriously.

B. _____ – "Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good."

It takes more than just being authentic. Purity is a must!
Love must be discerning.

Step #1: _____ .

II. _____ . 12:10

A. _____ – "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love."

It is more than sipping coffee and sharing Bible verses.

B. _____ – "Giving preference to one another in honor."

It is amazing how much grace there is to go around when people honestly long for the success of others more than their own.

Step #2: _____ .

III. _____ . 12:11

Loving people for the right reason means we give others what they need the most when they deserve it the least at great personal cost.

A. _____ – "Not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

Laziness is the failure to do what needs to be done when it needs to be done.

The acid test for knowing whether you are serving God or serving yourself for the approval of others is how you respond when you are treated like a servant.

B. _____ – "Genuine service to God is characterized by diligence and enthusiasm."

Step #3: _____ .

IV. _____ . 12:12-13

A. _____ Focus – "Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer."

B. _____ Focus – "Contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing (pursuing) hospitality."

Step #4: _____ .