

## Sermon Text Discussion 8/8/2016

---

Romans 12:9-16 – “A Gospel Culture at Zionsville Fellowship” by Drew Hunter

### Overview

---

After 11 chapters of laying out his appeal for the gospel, Paul transitions in chapter 12 to exhortations to the church about it will look like for our lives to responsively reflect the grace and love shown to us. The gospel will transform lives and thus transform the culture of a church (and hopefully the community in which the church exists) by elevating these aspects of a gospel culture and answering the following two questions:

- 1) What is a gospel culture? One that is characterized by sincerity, conviction, affection, honor, earnestness, joy, endurance, generosity, empathy, and humility
- 2) How do we contribute to it? We receive it, we pursue it moment-by-moment, and we repeatedly return to the gospel.

We need both the gospel and the exhortations of this text to provide the fuel and a proper road map to where we are called to go.

### Quotations

---

“Gospel doctrine creates a gospel culture. The doctrine of grace creates a culture of grace. When the doctrine is clear and the culture is beautiful, that church will be powerful.” -Ray Ortlund, *The Gospel*

“The world is full of good. The godly person will say Yes to it with all her heart and then act accordingly. The world is also full of evil. The godly person will say No to it with all her heart and then act accordingly... A sequence of hearty Yes’s and No’s lies at the center of true religion.” -Cornelius Plantinga

“Spiritual pride tends to speak of other persons’ sins with bitterness and an air of contempt. Spiritual pride is very apt to suspect others, but a humble Christian is most jealous of himself. He is as suspicious of nothing in the world as he is of his own heart. The proud person is apt to find fault with other believers and to be quick to note their deficiencies. But the humble Christian has so much to do at home and sees so much evil in his own heart and is so concerned about it that he is not apt to be very busy with other hearts. He is apt to esteem others better than himself.”

-Jonathan Edwards

### Understanding & Application

---

- 1) Ray Ortlund has said that Romans 12:10 is one of the most overlooked verses of Scripture in churches today. He believes that too often, churches have cultures of shaming rather than honoring. How have you seen this play out? What is a step you can do this week to show honor to someone in the church?
- 2) A new believer reads Romans 12:9-16 and wonders how s/he will be able to live a life characterized by the things listed in these verses. How would you answer them? What is the fuel needed to live a life like this?
- 3) Share with the group an example or encouragement of how you have seen or been personally blessed by the gospel culture in which you live. What is the one area where you are praying you can better contribute to the gospel culture you share with your community?
- 4) What is one way you would request your group would pray for you as you seek to live out this gospel culture with your unbelieving friends, neighbors, family members, and co-workers?