



Theme: Listening Well

Romans 12:9 NLT

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

“Help me to love the person in front of me.”

Most of us know what it feels like to encounter people who rub you the wrong way. They may come across as critical, impatient, negative, or simply difficult to connect with. Conversations with them can feel draining, and it is tempting to keep our distance.

Romans 12:9 gives us a different challenge. God does not call us to love only the people who are easy to love. He calls us to love sincerely. That kind of love often begins with listening well. When we slow down and truly listen, we begin to hear the heartache behind the words they speak. The person who seems harsh may be carrying pain. The one who responds negatively might feel unheard or overlooked. Listening with patience creates space for understanding, compassion, and grace.

When we ask God to help us love the person in front of us, it shifts our focus. Instead of reacting to someone's personality, we begin asking God to help us see them through His eyes. Loving others sincerely often starts with the quiet discipline of listening first. Listening well and responding in kindness are ways we can live out God-inspired love.

Share: Who in your life might be a person who feels like sandpaper to you right now? What makes that relationship difficult? How might listening more carefully change the way you respond to that person? How does sincere love often require patience and humility? Think of a time when someone truly listened to you. How did that impact you? What would it look like this week to pray, “Help me love the person in front of me”? How can you demonstrate the love God has shown you to someone who needs His love in their life?

Pray: Lord, help us love others with sincerity. Give us patience to listen, humility to understand, and grace to respond with kindness. Teach us to love the person in front of us the way You love them. Amen.



Suggested Prayer Topics

- Pray for yourself. Ask God to bring to the surface what you need to learn from the scripture or what needs to be addressed within your heart and renew the desire to engage with those that need the hope of Jesus.
- Pray for Stonecroft Ministries. Pray for the mission of the ministry, the Board of Directors, National Office staff and volunteers across the nation.
- Pray for the needs of your family and friends. Pray that God gives you opportunities to speak into their lives and gives them hope and encouragement only found in Jesus.
- Pray for local Outreach Groups (Women's Connections, Bible studies, etc.) and your community. Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel. Pray for hearts and minds that are ready to receive him.
- Pray for our nation. For wisdom and protection of our leaders on every level, our workplaces, and our families.
- Pray for global evangelism. Pray that every woman everywhere would be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.