

# ***Sunday Sermon Notes***

## ***"Community Service"***

### **Like Paul, we are prisoners of Jesus Christ:**

Our purpose is to reach the lost  
Our call is to live worthy lives  
Our sentence is to do "community service"

### **Let's be honest:**

About our commitment: It is low  
About our efforts: They are weak  
About our results: They are poor

### **Question:**

*Why aren't we really making a difference in our community?*

### **We need to tear down these walls!**

Do we go to church or are we the church?  
Is church a place or a body?  
Is church a gathering or a scattering?  
Walls do not define our location!

### **We need to be people who make a difference!**

Salty Christians change the flavor  
Salty Christians preserve the community  
Salty Christians purify their environment

### **We need to be people who glow for God!**

We must not hide our identity as Christians  
We must be truly Christian in what we do  
We must work for the glory of God

### **How might I serve my community?**

Through my profession  
Through my volunteering  
Through my active presence

# ***Digging Deeper***

## **Notes for Individual Meditation and Small Group Discussion**

### **Reviewing the Sermon:**

How would you honestly evaluate your level of "Community Service"?

What do you think we need to do to effectively "tear down the walls"?

How big of a problem to you think a lack of "saltiness" in Christians is to our effectiveness in serving our community?

Why do you think Christians are so reluctant to "let their light shine"?

Share with your group some ways you think you might become a more effective servant in your community.

### ***Bible Study: Romans 12:9-13***

#### ***Discussion Questions***

*(Remember that not all questions must be used)*

This passage follows Paul's encouragement for Christians to use their spiritual gifts faithfully. As we read and study this passage, consider how Paul's words are describing the manner in which Christians can be "salty" and effective in letting their "light shine."

Why would Paul emphasize the "love must be sincere"? How have you seen love expressed in insincere ways? How can you tell whether or not someone is being sincere in their love?

Why do we need to be careful to hate what is evil? How do we go about "clinging" to what is good?

Why is it important to be devoted to one another? Do you think he is talking about how we treat each other as Christians or how Christians should treat his non-Christian friends?

How do we go about "honoring one another above yourselves"? Why do you think he needs to tell Christians to do this?

We are to not be "lacking in zeal" but rather keeping our "spiritual fervor" while serving the Lord. How difficult have you found it to keep up your zeal and fervor? What do you think a person needs to do to keep up zeal and fervor in his/her life?

We are told to be "joyful in hope". What do you think the relationship is between joy and hope? Does joy cause us to be hopeful or does hope cause us to be joyful? How do we go about recovering joy and hope when they are lost?

We are to be "patient in affliction". What does this tell you about the likelihood that Christians will experience affliction? How might it be true that people learn more about us in our suffering than they do observing us in times of blessing?

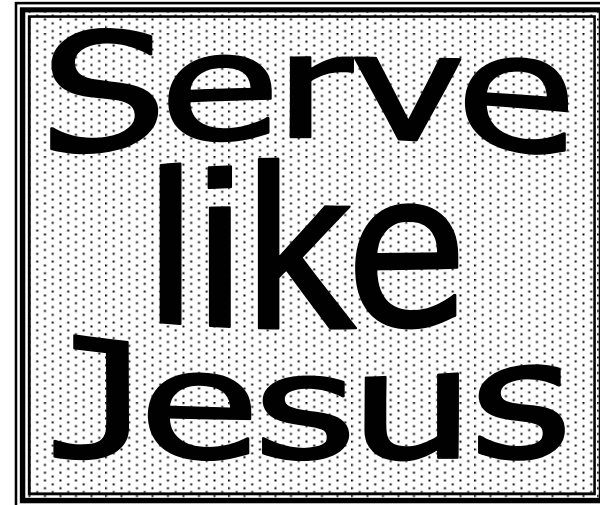
We are told to be "faithful in prayer". How can faithfulness in prayer be a way in which we serve our community?

Paul says to "share with God's people who are in need". Who do you think he means by God's people?

We are to "practice hospitality". What are practical ways we can fulfill this commandment?

Prayer Time:

Share with your group one way you will begin doing "community service." Pray for each other to fulfill their plan to let their light glow.



**February 10, 2008**

***Matthew 5:13-16***

***"Community  
Service"***

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Master copy of notes and audio version of the sermon at  
[www.middletownnaz.com](http://www.middletownnaz.com)