

04 • Love Never Fails

In our last study, we spent time in **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**, that picture of love in everyday terms. If we keep reading, the next verse tells us, “Love never **ends**” or “Love never fails.”

But what does that **mean**?

What are we being told, and why? In **Romans 12:9-14**:

Let love be **genuine**. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing **honor**. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

What might that look like, to **bless** a persecutor?

- **Stephen**, who prayed: “Lord, do not hold this sin **against** them” (**Acts 7:60**)
- **Jesus**, who prayed: “Father, **forgive** them, for they know not what they do.” (**Luke 23:34**)

How is it even possible to pray something like that?

Romans 12:15-21 continues to challenge us...

Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome** evil with **good**.

Evil is **going** to be overcome. Love never fails, and who knows who else might be led to God by the genuine love that shines when we follow in Jesus’ footsteps? This is why Peter encourages us, “Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable” (**1 Pet 2:12**). Our hope is that others might see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven (**Matt 5:14-16**).



For Class & Family Discussion:

- When the Holy Spirit calls us to “let love be genuine” (**Rom 12:9**), what does that mean?
- What does “abhorring” what is evil have to do with loving God and others?
- What might it look like in everyday terms to “outdo one another in showing honor”?
- I’m not Stephen and you’re not Jesus, but how might we have opportunities to “bless” those who “persecute” us?
- **Romans 12:19** contains some serious language we need to pay careful attention to. What is being communicated?
- Can you think of any examples where “evil” has been “overcome” with “good”?
- Back in **1 Corinthians 13:8-12**, Paul foretold that some things would “pass away.” In **verse 13**, “faith, hope, and love abide.” But one day, there will be no more need for faith and hope. Why, at that point, will love (“the greatest”) continue on?