A QUICK REVIEW...

- Remember (from week one), You ARE loved, and you CAN love!
- Remember (from week two) that following Jesus is really about becoming love.
- Remember (from week three) that loving people Jesus style means looking for opportunities to show love to people in a way that leaves an impression of how God sees them.

Today, we’re going to talk about how love is a multi-tool.

Love isn't just a virtue. It’s THE virtue. You don’t have to master a dozen separate skills to love people well. But love is made up of a dozen skills, all of which will help you to become love to other people.

Paul, in Romans 12, gives us a toolkit for loving well - a dozen different virtues we can apply in any relationship or any interaction.

**Romans 12:9-16 NLT**

9 Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. 10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. 11 Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. 12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. 13 When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you. Don’t curse them; pray that God will bless them. 15 Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with each other. Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all!
1. **Sincerity. (9a)**

One of Grace Hills' core values: *We keep it real and fight against fake. We live and lead with authenticity.* You can't pretend and love.

2. **Discernment. (9b)**

Love doesn't just affirm all behaviors and avoid all conflict. Love also sees danger and warns others with truth.

3. **Affection. (10a)**

Reach for tenderness. Lean in and do uncomfortable things - show affection for people whether you're a hugger or not.

4. **Honor. (10b)**

To honor is to put others first and before - to speak well of people and affirm the best about them and give them first in line.

5. **Enthusiasm. (11)**

We love when we're “more than willing” and actually “delighted to serve.” Like Chick-fil-A, “It’s my pleasure!”

6. **Patience. (12)**

Remember from 1 Corinthians 13 that love “bears with” all things, or (KJV) “suffers long.” We suffer with people.

7. **Generosity. (13a)**

Remember the old adage, “You can give without loving, but you can’t love without giving.” God, who is love, is a Giver!

8. **Hospitality. (13b)**

Love means opening our lives and homes to people and letting people "do life" together with us. It's having extra plates ready.

9. **Blessing. (14)**

As believers, we get to bless everyone with words, with touch, with time - even those we perceive to be our enemies.

10. **Empathy. (15)**

We often need to intentionally practice getting into someone else's heart and "feeling" alongside them.

11. **Harmony. (16a)**

Harmony doesn't mean uniformity. Even as diverse individuals, we can gather like family with people who aren't just like us.

12. **Humility. (16b)**

Humility isn’t thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less and of others more. It’s being better than no one.

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**Three Closing Challenges**

1. **See how God has gone first in these!**
2. **Read this passage every day this week.**
3. **Challenge yourself to be intentional.**