

# Rev Dave Rohde

## For Sunday, September 18th "Together in Christ, Part II"

### **Genesis 18:1-8 – NIV**

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

<sup>3</sup> He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree.

<sup>5</sup> Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant."

"Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

<sup>6</sup> So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three *seahs* of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

<sup>7</sup> Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

### **Romans 12:9-21 – NIV**

<sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

<sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Takeaway:** When we live together as a community in Christ, we transform the world.

- **Show Love (Romans 12:9-12)**
- **Show Stewardship (Romans 12:13-16)**
- **Resist Revenge (Romans 12:17-21)**

**Questions:**

1. Think of a person who loves others exceptionally well. How does that person show their love for others? How do you know if or when a person's love is genuine or not?
2. How well do we, as a church, show hospitality? Do newcomers REALLY feel welcome at WPC? Share about a time you were the "new person." What was the setting? Did you feel welcomed or unwelcome?
3. Reflect on Romans 12:15. What's your first reaction when you hear about someone else's success? What about when hearing about a person's loss?
4. Paul writes about radical resistance in Romans 12:19-21. How are Paul's ideas here countercultural to those of today's world? When you have been wronged or hurt, what is the most difficult part of resisting revenge?

Sermon: <https://podcast.wpcwestlake.org/services/mp3/sermon20220918.mp3>

Service Video: <https://youtu.be/0gxGEIZfRaE>