

**THE BIG IDEA: The bigger the rumble, the greater the reward.**The Take-Off

All the talk about the Remix has led to this moment: the moment when we take the next big step out of isolation and into face to face interaction.

Remember last week when I talked about going into the deep and how the waves and the breakers that David described in Psalm 42:7 sound peaceful but actually knock into us and knock things off of us?

That's what we're talking about today. We're going to look at 4 very specific waves that we've got to get through in order to get to the deep places relationally where God wants us to be.

As I've read and re-read Romans 12, one thing has consistently gone through my mind:

**[AUDIO CLIP: "Let's get ready to rumble!"]**

I'm not saying let's come to church looking for a fight - nothing could be further from the truth!

But I do believe that when you read Romans 12 - all of it, not just the 2 verses we're focusing on today - you have to come away with the feeling of, "Oh, snap, that's gonna be hard."

Researcher Brené Brown uses the term rumble to describe what it feels like when things get hard, and I love that term. And to add to that rumble reality, we know that this is written in the context of family:

- Romans 1:7 says that it's to all who are loved by God and called to be saints and Paul uses "our" Father and "our" Lord Jesus Christ
- Chapter 12 is to "brothers" in v. 1, those who are "in Christ" in v. 5, "God's people" in v. 13

If we've learned nothing else in 5 months of quarantine, surely we've learned that when it comes to family, these song lyrics could not be more true: "Love's not a fight, but it's something worth fighting for."

So, in continuation of last week's "working through the waves on the way to the deep" message, allow me to point out 3 relational waves in these 2 verses that can at times be hard.

These are the places where we will rumble - and by rumble I mean work through the tension created in the relationships because we're committed to living these truths in the relationships.

But the rumble is worth it because this is where the deep grace and truth-filled unity is revealed to a world desperate to see it for real.

The Big Idea says that **the bigger the rumble, the greater the reward.**

So, let's get ready to rumble in the remix through 3 relational waves.

**1. Wave #1: Love deeply (v. 9)**

- a. Before we get to the first one, notice that this entire section begins in Rom 12:1 with a call to become "living sacrifices"
- b. We're called to live it - sometimes dying for Jesus is easier than living for him - this is one of those times
- c. The first thing we're called to do is to **love deeply**
- d. The NIV says that love must be sincere
- e. The NLT says "don't just pretend to love others - really love them"
- f. The Greek word for "sincere" means "without hypocrisy"
- g. Hypocrisy isn't the same as "not perfect" - but rather the same as "pretending to have something I don't or to be something I'm not" (actually comes from Greek theater - masked storyteller)
- h. So the best step away from hypocrisy is honesty - a willingness to move past the surface level of agreement to the deeper level of alignment
- i. **1 Sam. 14:7 (NLT)** / loving deeply - "heart and soul" - no condition - "do whatever you think best"
- j. **1 Peter 1:22 (NLT)** / this agape love - this sincere, honest, deep love - is part of who we are as believers
- k. We don't always get it right, but even when we get it wrong, we're with each other heart and soul

**2. Wave #2: Hold tightly (v. 9)**

- a. In the Remix, in the messy middle, we love deeply, but we also **hold tightly**
- b. Greek word for "hold" means "to glue together, cement, fasten together; to join one's self to"
- c. It's used in Matt. 19:5 to refer to "cleaving" in marriage
- d. Jonathan's "heart and soul" statement illustrates this!
- e. But we can't hold tightly to the good unless we've let go of the bad

- f. Hate what is wrong - Greek word for hate means “to have a horror of”
- g. Not a hate of the person, but of the thing
- h. The command is to hate WHAT, not WHO
- i. But hate can't be what unites us - for too long we've been known more for what we're against than for
- j. [ILL - the Hater app]
- k. We've got to see the good. Call out the good. Celebrate the good.
- l. And how do we know what's good and what's evil?
- m. We spend time in relationship with God.
- n. **Gen. 3:5** / even Satan recognized that God was the one who knows good and evil
- o. We need to be with our good Father so that we can hold tightly to what He calls good

### 3. Wave #3: Honor courageously (v. 10)

- a. Can we just hang out on verse 10 for a minute?
- b. The NLT tells us to “love each other with genuine affection”
- c. The NIV really gets it when it talks about “brotherly love” - there's that family language again!
- d. But notice the last part of the verse: “and take delight in honoring each other”
- e. I love the language of the English Standard Version: “outdo one another in showing honor”
- f. But most versions say something along the lines of “preferring one another” and I want to close with that
- g. The Greek word for “prefer” that is translated as “take delight” or “above yourselves” is only found this one time in the entire NT
- h. It means “to go before and show the way, to go before and lead, to go before as leader”
- i. The third wave is a call to **honor courageously** - courage is required to go first
- j. It's easier to complain about the state of the world or the church or the issue that really gets us going than it is to be the first one to show honor to others - even others who are acting honorably
- k. We - the church saved by grace when we didn't deserve it - are to SET THE EXAMPLE in honor
- l. A culture that can't honor itself should be able to look at the church and see us doing what they can't
- m. That is what will lead them to ultimately want to know how we pulled that off!
- n. Our answer? Jesus. Pure and simple.
- o. Jesus.

#### The Landing

I mentioned at the beginning that the bigger the rumble, the greater the reward, and I want to show you the reward  
It's found in the last verse of Romans 12: “overcome evil by doing good”

The fact that it's in there means that it's possible!

When we do the hard work of rumbling - the good of loving deeply, holding tightly, honoring courageously - the promise  
of Scripture is that evil will be overcome.

Will it be easy? No. Will it be effective? 100% yes.

Let's pray