

## *Romans 12:9-21*

### Introduction

A young dad once told a story about his three kids who decided made a new club. They had three rules in their club. Nobody acts big. Nobody acts little. Everybody acts medium. Pretty good advice!

In other words, none of us are greater than the other.

A couple of weeks ago we studied on being a living sacrifice, and that living sacrifice starts from within.

This morning - second part of being a living sacrifice

- Finish what we didn't finish last week.

8 he who exhorts, in exhortation he who gives, with liberality (James 1:5 God just pours it out); he who leads, with-diligence

(parakaléō, to exhort means to call upon someone to do something.)

Some have the natural ability to be one on one

- leading in personal discipleship like Paul says in 1 cor 14:3;

And Paul encourages them to lead with diligence:

- be willing to stand out in front.

In Latin the word for leading is “eduko.” (to lead out)

- Duko means to lead and
- “e” means “out” so
- eduko means to lead out.

We get our English word “education” from the Latin word eduko.

In other words,

- lead with diligence.
- Diligence - Speúdoē (in English is speed or speedo, speedometer)

Paul closes verse 8 by saying:

he who shows mercy, (to show it) with cheerfulness.

### Behave Like a Christian

- In verses 9 through 16 Paul discusses the family relationship.

Rom 12:9-21

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

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

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

20 Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

If he is thirsty, give him a drink;

For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

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

There are several similarities between these next several verses and 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14.

Love must be sincere as Paul says in (v. 9).

(This is a Greek word that you know, *anhypocritos*, not hypocritical, not fake.)

- Love and pretense cannot exist together.

9 Let love be without hypocrisy (no play acting, unhypocritical)

Don't pretend to love someone when you could care less about them.

You've heard the saying, "I don't like you, but I love you!" I may not like you, but I'm called to love you.

The term "unhypocritical" was a term used during Paul's day

- and it was used of an actors mask
- with which people could pretend
- to be different characters.

Well, I thought Jesus said that I have to love you, He did! John 13:34 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Jesus didn't say this because it

- because of the new covenant.

Thus far in Romans Paul has been speaking of God's agape love.

In Chapter 5:5

- the love of God has been poured out in our hearts.

Verse 8 of chapter 5,

- He demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Verse 35 of chapter 8,

- who shall separate us from the love of Christ and

Verse 39 of chapter 8,

- nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

Now, in chapter 12 Paul stops talking about God's love for us

- and begins describing what our love for others is to be,

Love hates evil. It clings to good (v. 9).

Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. (hate passionately as described in Jude 23,)

Jude verses 22-23 (ASV)

22 And on some have mercy, who are in doubt;

23 and some save, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

The concept of the garment probably had to do with leprosy

If a "clean" person touched an "unclean" garment,

- then he was considered defiled.

So we have to love without hypocrisy

- and we have to abhor or hate what is evil.

1 Thess 5:14 14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold (to hold firmly, to cleave to) the weak, be patient with all.

Love is being a devoted friend (v. 10).  
Love honors another above yourself (v. 10).

A. This may be the most difficult on the list.

10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love (this is a different love from agape love.) in honor giving preference to one another;

Agape love tells us to

- love with the will
- rather than emotions.

Phileo (brotherly) love

- is a tender warm concern,

in honor giving preference to one another; (Relate to the brethren with a practical humility according to Phil 2:3)

Phil 2:3

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; (relates to enthusiasm)

A reminder to “serve the Lord.”

Rom 12:12-15

12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

12 rejoicing in hope, patient (steadfast, having endurance) in tribulation (thilipsis - pressing pressure),

Keep in mind that

- we don't rejoice in
- nor do we enjoy the tribulation itself,
- but it's the effect of the tribulation
- knowing that the Lord chastens those He loves.

Isaiah 40:31

31 But those who wait on the Lord  
Shall renew their strength  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
They shall run and not be weary,

They shall walk and not faint.

continuing steadfastly in prayer; (If we expect God to show up at the scene and expect Him to work, then He expects us to work at the scene by standing in the gap in prayer.)

13 distributing to the needs of the saints (acts 2:42), given to hospitality. Care for strangers.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. (Luke 6:28, the good will we're to have towards people)

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

Enter into their experiences.

If someone is hurting it's alright for us to hurt with them.

- Jesus calls that "compassion"
- We are to deal gently with those people,

16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

Paul said something similar in Philippians 2:2, he said:

2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

(This is like saying, humility is the crown of all and knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.)

In verse 10 Paul said to be affectionate toward one another,

- then he says to give preference to one another
- then in verse 16 he says to be of the same mind with one another.

We have a relationship to one another, the following are examples of the relationship in a family that we have to one another.

Jn 13:35 - Love one another as I have loved you

Rom 14:3 - don't condemn and judge another

Rom 14:19 build up and edify

Rom 15:5 have the same mind toward one another

Rom 15:7 accept or receive one another

Rom 15:14 and Col 3:16 admonish one another

Rom 16:16 greet one another with a holy kiss

1 Cor 12:25 have the same care for one another

Gal 5:13 thru love serve one another

Gal 5:15 if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

Gal 5:26 don't challenge or envy one another

Gal 6:2 bear one another's burdens

Eph 5:21 Be subject to one another

Col 3:9 Don't lie to one another

1 Thess 5:11 and Heb 3:13 Encourage one another

1 Jn 4:7 Let us love one another

So he starts with love and ends in 1 John with love.

Our relationship to our enemies and to the government:

Rom 12:17-21

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

If he is thirsty, give him a drink;

For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

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

In Matthew 5:38-39 Jesus was speaking to the disciples and He said: 38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'

- that's called the lex talionis.

This is something that was developed in

- early Babylonian law stating
- that criminals should receive as punishment
- precisely those injuries and damages
- they had inflicted upon their victims.

The disciples understood this.

But Jesus wasn't telling them to operate in this manner, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. In fact, He said 39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Jesus was in essence saying, forget the old Babylonian law.

18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Living peaceably means that you're taking the initiative,

- that's why Jesus said,
  - blessed are the peacemakers.

Making peace doesn't mean appeasement.

- There's a big difference between peace and appeasement
- and if all you try to do is appease people
- then you're gonna fall short of real peace

19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

1 Thess 5:15

See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

20 Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;  
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

At face value this may not sound too good for an unbeliever.

- But Paul is speaking of the natural effect that
- will happen as we show kindness to the unbeliever.
- Instead of the person feeling pain from burning coals,
- he will feel the pain from your kindness and from shame.

Rom 2:4

4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

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