

**Summary:** In [Romans 12:13-21](#), the Apostle Paul calls believers to embody a lifestyle rooted in love, characterized by selflessness and a commitment to serve others. This passage addresses the practical outworking of faith—encouraging Christians to extend hospitality, empathy, and forgiveness, illustrating how these virtues disrupt cycles of hatred and promote community.

**Application:** This sermon offers Christians a clear blueprint for how to respond to the challenges of life through love and service. It empowers believers to approach their relationships with grace, fostering an environment that reflects Christ's heart and challenges the norms of a divided world. By applying these principles, Christians can move toward healing and restorative actions in their communities.

**Teaching:** The teaching focuses on the transformative nature of divine love in believers' lives. It emphasizes that love is not merely an emotion but a series of intentional actions that disrupt the status quo, inviting the church to actively live out its faith through tangible expressions of compassion and humility.

**How this passage could point to Christ:** This theme underscores Jesus' command to love one's neighbor and enemy alike, demonstrated through His life and especially His sacrifice on the cross. His example of radical love is the ultimate fulfillment of the law and the embodiment of what it means to live as a disciple, showcasing God's redemptive plan for humanity.

**Big Idea:** The essence of discipleship lies in the active practice of love that transforms individuals and communities, demonstrating God's presence in the world.

## 1. Persistent in Sacrificial Living

### Romans 12:13-15

Contributing- κοινωνέω (koinōneō)- share

1 Corinthians 16:15–16 “15 Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints), 16 that you also be in subjection to such men and to everyone who helps in the work and labors.”

Matthew 25:35–36 “35 For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; 36 naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.”

Luke 6:27–28 “27 “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

Luke 23:34 “34 But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.”

Acts 7:60 “60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” Having said this, he fell asleep.”

Psalm 34:12–16 “12 Who is the man who desires life And loves length of days that he may see good? 13 Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit. 14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. 15 The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous And His ears are open to their cry. 16 The face of the Lord is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 “3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

## 2. Pursue Peaceful Partnerships

Romans 12:16-18

1 Peter 3:8 “8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;”

Galatians 3:28 “28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Deuteronomy 32:35 “35 ‘Vengeance is Mine, and retribution, In due time their foot will slip; For the day of their calamity is near, And the impending things are hastening upon them.’”

2 Corinthians 8:21 “21 for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.”

Proverbs 3:4 “4 So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man.”

Romans 14:19 “19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”

## 3. Proclaiming Forgiveness over Fury

Romans 12:19-21

Revenge- ἔκδικέω (ekdikeō)-to repay harm with harm

1 Thessalonians 4:6 “6 and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you.”

Romans 2:5 “5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,”