

Romans 12:9-21 Love of a Christian

Intro:

*Motherly wisdom:

- If you don't have anything good to say...
- Eat your vegetables, they're good for you!
- If you're too full to finish your dinner, you're too full for desert
- If you're too sick to go to school, then you're too sick to play video games
- Always wear clean underwear in case you get into an accident
- Cleanliness is next to godliness

Behind every great man is a great woman...I imagine Paul's mom was pretty great. Let's look at what Paul's mom taught him...

Marks of the True Christian

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

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

I. How to love genuinely v.9-13

-The greatest of Christian traits should always be love.

-Why? Because God is love

-They should know we are Christians by our extraordinary love

-What does this look like?

1. Hating what is evil and loving what is good v.9

-Some of us have a flirtatious relationship with evil

-Equally...a flirtatious relationship with good

-What is good? Everything God has said is good

-What is evil? Everything God has said is evil

-One of the most unloving things we can do as Christians is approve of evil. It misleads people...they think they are on the right path, but are truly on the path to Hell.

*Food on your face principal...spit napkin

2. Showing brotherly love and honor v.10

-Brotherly love is funny...b/c my brother was put on this earth to torture me as a kid. Hold me under to see how long I could hold my breath.

-Christians are to show genuine Filio love and honor to people who are not their brothers when it is due.

-This is a real sign of maturity

-When we can honor someone rather than be jealous

3. Having a fire for serving God v. 11

-My mom & dad have modeled this for my whole life

-While dad may have mostly been up front, he did that with her support. Even now on Wednesday nights.

-I think Paul's mom told him...get after it.

-Zeal was a key component of Paul's ministry

-God can use zeal!

4. Joyful, Patient, Persistent v.12

-I took the qualifiers off of these three virtues here..they still ring true

-How many a mom has stood with a child through the roughest of times?

-How many a mom has put on a happy face in the presence of affliction to keep the family moving forward?

-How many a mom has labored in prayer over their children?

5. Generous

-Share your toys! Or I'm taking them away!

-I don't think we are born inherently generous.

-It's definitely a learned concept

-Paul sees Generosity as a key component of loving people

-When the world sees how the church loves each other and how we take care of our own...it is impressive.

-But how ugly is it when we don't?

-Generosity and hospitality are anchors of Christian love

II. How to love EGRs v.14-20

-I learned the term EGR when I was at my church in Memphis

-It was a phrase that they were using before I got there

-Extra Grace Required

-Do you know any people who are EGR people?

-To love them, you would have to dig down really deep?

1. Bless them v.13

2. Be empathetic v.14
3. Don't be stuck up v. 15
4. Let god deal with their evil in time v.17-19
 - Your reaction needs to be the opposite of the world
 - God is protecting you
 - The one who reacts is usually the one who gets it worse
 - we have to trust that God's "repayment" is going to be far more just than anything we could possibly do.
 - I also think...they are still an image bearer of God...He wants to save
 - Jesus, in an effort to save me, took the beating
 - *Jim Elliot...didn't fight back

III. How to be an overcomer v.21

- Verse 21 should be underlined in your Bible.
- For every kid suffering at the hands of a bully
- For every adult with a jerk of a boss
- For every spouse with a jerk of a spouse
- *You can add gas or you can add water

Conclusion:

- so thankful for moms
- they have a natural knack for being loving
- Today...let us resolve to love in a godly way and not a worldly way
 - Agape love: self giving love, self-sacrificing love
 - considers others before ourselves is the Christ-like love that should characterize the church.