

Romans 12:9-21

Loving God's Way

Recap

- **Romans 1-11**
 - **Neither Jews nor Gentiles can save themselves through works**
 - **The Jews have the Law, but they are no more worthy than the Gentiles**
 - **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)**
 - **The Law is a mirror to show us our need for a Savior**
 - **Christ’s sacrifice on the cross paid for all our sins, once and for all time**
 - **God is still faithful to His promise to create a great nation from Abraham and his descendants**
 - **“Reconciliation of the world” (Romans 11:15)**
- **Romans 12:1-3**
 - **Sacrifice your old self and take on the new self in Christ**
 - **Be humbly self-aware; not prideful but confident in the gifts from God’s grace**
- **Romans 4:8**
 - **Use the gifts of the Spirit as you’ve received them to unify the body of Christ**

Recap

- **What is the appropriate response to God's gift of salvation?**
- **1 John 4:19**
 - **“Context, context, context!” ~ Rick Ouimet**

Romans 12: 9-13

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

Romans 12: 9-13

- **Love must be sincere, true, and real – no fakes! (v.9)**
- **Basics of love: Be kind. Prefer one another (v.10)**
- **Love in the workplace: Not slothful but fervent. We serve God, not man (v.11)**
- **Love under pressure (tribulation): rejoice, hope, patient, continuing in prayer (v.12)**
- **Love in hospitality: giving, hosting, or serving (v.13)**

Love within the Church

- **Many parts, one body**
 - **Romans 12:4-5**
 - **Ephesians 4:13**
 - **1 Corinthians 12:12**
- **Unity – what does it look like?**
- **Wherever Paul mentions the spiritual gifts, he follows them with statements about love**

Romans 12:4-8	Ephesians 4:11-16	I Corinthians 12:1-6
Motivational Gifts/Gifts	Administrations/Ministry Gifts	Operations/Manifestations
Prophecy Ministry/serving Teaching Exhortation Giving Ruling/administration Showing mercy	Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher 12 For perfecting of saints, work of the ministry, and edifying of the body	Word of wisdom, Word of knowledge, Faith, Gifts of healing, Working of miracles Prophecy, Discerning of spirits, Different kinds of tongues, Interpretation of tongues
UNIFY 4 Members in ONE BODY 5 ONE BODY in Christ 5 Members one of another	UNIFY 13 Till we all come in the UNITY of faith, knowledge of the Son, mature, and fulness of Christ	UNIFY 12 Body is ONE, ONE body
LOVE Romans 12:9-21	LOVE Ephesians 4:14-16 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in LOVE, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in LOVE.	LOVE I Corinthians 13:1-3 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not LOVE, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not LOVE, <u>I am nothing</u> . 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not LOVE, it <u>profits me nothing</u> .

Romans 12:14-18

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

When in Rome...

- **Paul describes human depravity in detail**
 - **Romans 1:21-32**
 - **Romans 3:9-20**
 - **2 Timothy 3:2-5**
- **What was the Roman Empire like?**
- **What lessons can we learn from early Christians on how to live in a fallen world?**

Luke 6:32-36

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Love is a decision

- **Learning how to love begins when it is hard**
- **Learning how to love begins when we are not loved back**
- **To show real love, we have to yield to real love**
- **“And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” (Romans 5:5)**

Romans 12: 14-18

- **Love in persecution: bless, do not curse (v.14)**
 - **“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” (Luke 6:27-28)**
- **Love in empathy: rejoice or weep, meet people where they are at (v.15)**
- **Love in how we treat others: treat everyone the same or well (vs.16)**

Romans 12: 14-18

- **Love in actions: integrity and honesty (v.17)**
 - **Integrity is:**
 - **What you do when no one is watching**
 - **Doing the right thing all the time, even when it may work to your disadvantage**
 - **Keeping your word**
- **Love in pursuing peace (v.18)**
 - **Psalm 34:14-16; Hebrews 12:14; I Peter 3:10-11**

Romans 12:19-21

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

Romans 12: 19-21

- **Love in relinquishing vengeance (v.19)**
 - “It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them.” (Deuteronomy 32:35)
 - The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)
 - The goodness of God leads to repentance (Romans 2:4)
- **Love through giving (food, drink, warmth) (v.19)**
 - We can bless our enemy or the world when we give food and drink
- **“Heap coals of fire on his head” (v.20)**
 - Proverbs 25:21-23
- **Overcome evil with good (giving) (v.21)**

Good overcomes evil

- **Jesus said to the rich young ruler, “Why do you call me good? There is none good (Giver, Provider, Benefactor) but One, that is, God.” (Matthew 19:17)**
- **As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good (GIVE) unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:10)**
- **Overcome evil with good (GIVING). (Romans 12:21)**

John 13:34-35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Romans 13:8-10

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

1 Peter 4:8

**Above all, keep loving one another earnestly,
since love covers a multitude of sins.**