



The Book of ROMANS

Chapter 12:9-21

“Christianity Inside Out!”

Go for God!

Introduction: We are moved into the third section of *The Book of Romans*:

- Section #1- Chapters 1 – 8 *Doctrine* (Sin, Salvation, Sanctification) – Faith!
- Section #2- Chapters 9 – 11 *Dispensational* (God’s sovereignty with Israel) – Hope!
- Section #3- Chapters 12 – 16 *Dutiful* (Christian service) – Love!

> There are three keys to the CHRISTIAN LIFE in these verses 1-8:

- Key #1 – We the BELIEVER LIVING IN THE WILL OF GOD!

- Key #2 – We the BELIEVER IN THE WORK OF GOD!

- Key #3 – We the BELIEVER IN THE WITNESS OF GOD!

(v9-21) We are to WITNESS INSIDE OUT:

(v9a) Do we really LOVE people with the love of Christ? - What is LOVE? LOVE is defined in 1 Corinthians chapter 13. Let’s **TURN & LEARN**:

> Paul starts with phony love actors in verses 1-3:

- Phony love actor #1 – (v1) *The Spiritual Actor*
- Phony love actor #2 – (v2) *The Intellectual Actor*
- Phony love actor #3 – (v3) *The Sacrificial Actor*

> (v4-8a) Paul defines TRUE LOVE IN ACTION:

- “Love suffers long” – To be long-spirited, i.e. forbearing or patient.

- “Love is kind” – The word used here denotes to be good-natured, gentle, tender, affectionate, to show oneself useful, courteous, i.e. to act benevolently.

- “Love does not envy” – A feeling of resentment and jealousy toward another person because of his possessions or good qualities.

- “Love does not parade itself” – The idea is that of boasting, bragging vaunting. Most expositors suppose that it has the notion of boasting or vaunting of one’s own excellencies or endowments. This spirit proceeds from the idea of “superiority” over others; and relates to feeling of contempt or disregard for them.

- “Love is not puffed up” – This word means to blow, to puff, to paint, to inflate with pride, and vanity, and self-esteem.

- “Love does not behave rudely” – To act unseemly or unbecoming. To speak in a condescending or crude manner, to be discourteous.

- “Love does not seek its own” – True love is not selfish, self-centered, or self-absorbed. We are to love others, to seek their welfare with self-denial, to respond with personal sacrifice and toil.

- “Love is not provoked” - To be quickly stirred to anger, to have a short temper.

- **“Love thinks no evil”** – That is, to have a continual belief that the motives and heart of another is for the good. Meaning, that your love is not malicious or desires to find fault in others, but your thoughts and speech will dwell upon the good. (Philippians 4:8)

- **“Love does not rejoice in iniquity”** – Love does not rejoice in sinful practices of our world, nor do we take delight when a fellow believer falls into sin. Christians find pleasure in hearing others accused of sin, and in having it proved that they committed it. But true love will pray for repentance, reconciliation, and restoration.

- **“Love rejoices in the truth”** – Love rejoices in virtue, godliness, righteousness, and goodness. It does not rejoice in the "vices," but in the "virtues" of others. Love rejoices when others "do well."

- **“Love bears all things”** - The Greek word for “bears” is *stegei*, which means to "cover," "hide," "conceal," not to make known. This means that love is disposed to hide or conceal the faults and imperfections of others, not to publicize them.

- **“Love believes all things”** – This love has a disposition to believe that brothers and sisters in Christ are actuated by good motives, and that they intend no injury; and that there is a willingness to suppose, as far as can be, that what is done is done consistently with friendship, good feeling, and virtue.

- **“Love hopes all things”** – God’s love is an optimistic, not pessimistic. We have hope for today in Christ, hope for change by the power of the Holy Spirit, and hope for eternity as we look forward to heaven.

- **“Love endures all things”** – This Holy Spirit produced love bears up under any stress or strain. It sustains us and does not complain. This love endures all persecutions at the hand of man and will keep on loving no matter the event.

- **“LOVE NEVER FAILS!”** - **“Fails”** is *ekpiptei* in Greek, meaning to drop away; to be driven out of one's course; figuratively, to lose, to become inefficient. In other words, God’s love through us never fails or falters, but will have its powerful effect upon everyone and every situation.

> **BACK TO ROMANS 12:9-18**

(v9b) Do we **ABHOR EVIL** and **CLING to what is GOOD?**

(Evil in Greek is **poneros** (pon-ay-ros’); hurtful, i.e. evil (properly, in effect or influence, which refers rather to essential character, which indicates degeneracy from original virtue); figuratively, calamitous; also (passively) ill, i.e. diseased; but especially (morally) culpable, i.e. derelict, vicious, mischief, malice.)

(v10a) Are we **KINDLY AFFECTIONATE (cherishing one another)** with **BROTHERLY LOVE?**

(v10b) Do we honor and give **PREFERENCE** to others?

(v11) Our Christian life must not be lagging in **DILIGENCE (not slothful)**; **“FERVENT (to be hot, to bring to a boil) IN SPIRIT”** – **ENTHUSIASTIC!** We are called to **SERVE THE LORD**, the body of Christ!

In Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

And in Colossians 3:23-25 - And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

(v12a) Are we **REJOICING IN HOPE?**

- **Hope is found 142 times in the Bible.** In **Titus 2:11-14** - *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

(v12b) Are we **HAPPY** and patient even in tough times?

(v12c) Do we have a consistent **PRAYER** life? **John 16:23-24** - *Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.* (Acts 2:42; 1Thessalonians 5:17; 1Timothy 2:8)

(v13) Are we helping others and are we given to **HOSPITALITY**, **given** means to seek out others to bless them?

(v14) Are we willing to **BLESS** our enemies? Jesus said, **Matthew 5:43-45** - *You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven*

(v15) Are we in touch (sensitive) with other Christians, whereas, to **REJOICE** and **WEEP** with them?

(v16) Are we mindful of the **INTEREST** of others and are we **HUMBLE**?

(v17-18) Are we **PEACEABLE**? Notice it says ***"If it is possible;"*** sometimes it's not possible and we as a country must go to war or we personally must defend ourselves. Next week **Romans chapter 13** will yield an understanding of civil governments providing for national security as well as civil protection.

(v19-21) **Are we overcoming evil with GOOD?** The ***heap coals of fire on his head*** refers to an ancient Egyptian custom in which a person who wanted to show public contrition carried a pan of burning coals on his head. The coals represented the burning pain of his shame and guilt. When believers lovingly help their enemies, it should bring shame to such people for their hate and animosity (cf. Prov. 25:21, 22).

Matthew 25:21 - *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

LET'S "GO4GOD!"