

Title: Love Without Hypocrisy
Text: Romans 12:9-13

Will you take your Bibles and open them to Romans chapter 12. I want to continue where we left off last week. We are looking at our Christian duties. Our first duty, of course, concerns our commitment to God. Verse 1 and 2 instructs us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. And this is holy or well pleasing. It is the logical thing that we should do. The result of one's commitment to God will be ministry in the body as believers exercises their spiritual gifts. And these gifts are spelled out for you in verses 6 through 8.

(3C) Now, beginning with Verse 9 we see how this all works. And that is in the area of love. Love without hypocrisy is our third duty as a Christian.

Let's begin with Verse 9 of Romans chapter 12 **(Read 9-13)**

PRAYER

Our Father in heaven we again praise your name for all that you are and all that you are doing in our lives. We thank you for your Word. It is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. It is sharper than any two edged sword. And it discerns the motives of our hearts. We thank you, Father, that you are able to change our lives through your Word. We pray for those in our audience, today, who are not really sure of their relationship to you. Father, we pray that you will give them assurance of salvation. We pray that you would bring them unto yourself. And we, also, pray for every believer. Our Father, strengthen us in your Word. Help us to understand the need of commitment to Christ. And we pray that the love of God might be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. We ask all of this in the name of Jesus our Lord...**Amen.**

There is nothing like love. The world needs love. And Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you have love one for another." There is no chapter which describes love as clearly as this chapter with maybe the exception of I Corinthians 13. But, here, in Roman 12 we have a wonderful description of love. The kind of love that God wants in the heart and life of every Christian and every church.

and { Now, verse 9 through 13 is really only one statement. Then there are a lot of participles which describe that statement. One statement which is found in Vs 9. And then a description of that statement. (30) So, let's look at our responsibility to LOVE.

(1D) First of all, I would like you to notice in Vs 9 the basic principle that is shared with us about love. The basic statement: **"Let love be without hypocrisy."**

Now, that is a simple statement. But what does it mean? What does the word "hypocrisy" mean?

I was surprised to find that this word is often translated "to answer." As in the case of a stage actor who was playing a part. He was playing a role. And the Bible is warning us not to be that way. In other words, the love of God is a word of communication. If you are really loving, you are going to be communicating with someone. And Paul is warning us about saying words that are merely words and playing a role. Play acting instead of having the real love of God. **LET LOVE BE WITHOUT HYPOCRISY.**

*So, that is our basic requirement.
Now, Paul goes to describe ^a love that is without
hypocrisy*

? isn't it wonderful

Have you ever met somebody who you believed really loves? I mean, every ~~thing~~ thing that comes out of their mouth is encouraging and you know that they are just in the spirit of love?

Let's suppose for a moment that you would really like to love like that. So, you go out and get a cassette recorder and while that person is talking you tape his voice. Then you put the recorder behind you and talk to someone, mouthing the words, and thus hope to communicate love.

I got news for you. It will not work. You see, you can say all the right words, but ~~you may not be communicating the love of God.~~ *They are not coming from the right source - just Hypocrisy*

Love is that mysterious thing that God is really in control of. And God is also in control of communication, both from the standpoint of the one who talks, as well as the one who receives it. God is controlling that.

And if everything isn't right in your heart, no matter how much you might want to love, God is not going to benefit the person who is receiving it. Because He is in control of both. And that is the mystery about the whole thing.

So, the simple statement, "let love be without hypocrisy, without any play acting, no role playing here. It must be real. ~~It must be the truth.~~

What is Real Love?

~~It must communicate.~~ *It must communicate.* Now, Paul will describe this love.

(2D) So, the second thing that I want you to see in Verse 9 to 13 is the continuing practice of love *in your lives*

Now, everyone of these little descriptions is in the present tense. That means a "habit of life." *These characteristics* This should be constantly in the lives of believers. The love of God must constantly be shared. And Paul goes on to describe *These characteristics* it in five *areas of life* ways. In five specific areas in which the love of God should be continually in our lives *as a habit of life.*

(1E) First of all, I would like you to notice in Vs 9 love *without Hypocrisy* as it affects the issue of *Friends* morality....Morality....You cannot separate the issue of morality from the issue of sharing the love of God. Vs 9 says "Abhor what is evil, cling to what is good."

Now ~~the~~ the word "abhor" means "to hate." You are to hate what is evil. The love of God is not involved in sin and in evil. You are going to hate it.

And ~~secondly~~ ^{Then}, you are going to cling. The word "cling" ~~has the idea of~~ ^{means to} glue. So, the idea is that you are going to glue yourself to that which is good. You know, only that which is good builds up. The love that tears down is not the love of God. The love of God builds up. And it glues itself to that which is good. And it stays away and hates that which is evil.

(2) ~~Now~~ ^{Paul} the second ~~thing~~ ^{thing} that he wants us to see about love involves ~~self?~~ ^{self?} motivation....Motivation.. What you really feel ~~inside of~~ ^{inside of} you is very important when you are trying to share love. Vs 10 says, "be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor."

The phrase "be devoted to one another in brotherly love" is a phrase that is used to describe the love that is ~~found~~ ^{Found} between family members.

And Paul takes that phrase and applies it to the church. And he is saying that among the body of Christ we are in the family of God. Therefore, he takes that phrase and he says that we ought to love one another just as though we were all part of the same physical family. ^{The Issue} DO YOU BELIEVE THAT?

You know, one day God is going to impress us with ~~it~~ ^{it} because all of you who are really hung up on marriage, right now, as the one thing that lasts forever and forever ^{and you} are going to be surprised when the rapture comes. Do you know what is going to happen? There is not going to be ~~any~~ anymore marriages.

Now, don't cry. Just hang on for a moment. No marriage or giving of marriage in heaven, ^{says the Bible}

You say, "well, what kind of relationship will that be?" Well, the real family, brothers and sisters in Christ, will come to the forefront as it supposedly is to be experienced ^{Now} in the church. But one day we will experience what it really is like. To be one in Christ and to be part of God's family. And every need we have will be met. Every need we have will be completely satisfied.

So, ^{Paul} he is telling Christian, right now, to have the love of family in your midst. One to another in brotherly love.

You say, "O.K., but how does that effect motivation?" Will you notice the last phrase: ^{vs 10} "give preference to one another in honor."

The word "preference" means "to lead the way."....The point is that love will lead the way in showing honor to another brother or sister. ^{if} ~~the~~ motivation is correct. You are not seeking your own glory. You are seeking the honor of the other brother or sister. And ^{that kind of} love leads the way. You don't wait for him to show you honor. You lead the way to show Him honor. ^{So} ~~And~~ this verse is dealing with motivation. If brotherly love is in the midst of the church, if we really are loving and ministering one to another, then we are seeking the good of the other person. We are seeking to build them up. We seeking to encourage them, to honor them. And love will lead the way. ^{if} love is in your heart, ~~it~~ ^{it} will not wait around to be ask. It will be ready to go....

(3) ^{now} Now, the third ~~thing~~ ^{that} I would like you to notice, in Vs 11, involves the methods of operation. O.K we are going to love. Now, what is God telling us to do? What is the method? What do we actually do?

There are three phrases here that describe the method. Vs 11 says, "not lagging ^{behind} ~~behind~~ in diligence (~~KJ says Business. it is really the word diligence~~), fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

(1) Now, look at that first phrase: "not lagging behind in diligence." The point of this is that if love is working in your heart, it is going to do something. It has to.

Listen, friends, ~~the~~ ^{to} love that does not perform is not the love of God. A man says to his wife, "I love you", and yet he never shows it. How do you think that woman will respond to him? ~~A~~ lot of words...play acting....

If the love of God is in our hearts, it is going to show. It will perform. It can't be lagging behind. ^{we} ~~it~~ can't be failing to do with diligence what we know we should do...

(2) The second part of Vs 11 says "fervent in spirit." Now, the word "fervent" means "to boil". The idea is that you are just boiling over with God's love.

You know, it is nice to get close to someone like that. Just to feel the warmth of that love.

And it is in "the Spirit", not just "in spirit". It is in "THE SPIT".

And that is very important. Because Paul is not just talking about an attitude. He is talking about your spiritual life. Because you see, the love of God is the love of the Holy Spirit. And when you are walking under the control of the H.S. then that love is boiling over.

And you know, ^{as well as} ~~and I know~~ when you meet someone who really loves people, it is great to be around them, isn't it? You just can't wait to get around them.. Boiling over...When love is working it is working...

(3F) And the reason for all of this is [redacted] found in that third phrase:
"serving the Lord."...Serving the Lord."

The Bible often talks about your job in terms of the employer/employee relationship and it is called "serving the Lord."

The Bible speaks about relationships in the family and it is called "serving the Lord."

The Bible talks about a christian witness and it is called "serving the Lord."

The Bible talks about one christian helping another it is called "serving the Lord."

WHAT IS THE POINT? Jesus said "that if you do it unto one of the least of my brothers, you have done it unto me."

"If you give a cup of cold water in my name, it shall receive a reward."

You see, all of loves operations have one direction, one objective, "serving Christ." If you minister to someone else, you are ministering to Christ. You are serving him. Love must perform. It must show service to Christ which will affect everybody.

(4E) The fourth area is found in Vs 12 And this area involves our maturity.
The love of God is a mature love. And there are three things which characterize this maturity.

(1) Vs 12 says "rejoicing in hope"....Literally it says "THE HOPE" The hope [redacted] of our Lord's return. I mean you are excited about it. It could happen at any moment. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT? I MEAN, YOU REALLY? ^{Do} [?] ^{A mature Love} ^{express in the Lord's} ^{Return}

You know, it is great to be around someone like that, isn't it? Someone who is really rejoicing in the return of Jesus Christ.

OK: ~~How does that affect the issue of love?...~~ The next two phrases ^{of vs 12} answers that question. *also, a mature Love is*

(2F) "Persevering in tribulation"...Persevering means "to bear up under"...Right now, there may be a heavy burden on your shoulders. I don't know what you are going through. Some real tensions, pressures, problems. If you have the love of God, boy, that love ~~can~~ can really take it. [Have you ever noticed that husband ~~and~~ ^{or} wives. Love can really take it. If love is there, you can endure a lot. Just look at who you married...It bears up under tribulation.

~~The~~ ^{This} word "tribulation" is the Greek word for mental and emotional pressure. And we all go through at times in our lives mental and emotional pressures. And when ~~there~~ ^{mature} love is there, you can bear up under it.

Now, why? Because you are rejoicing in the hope... *of The Lord's Return*

(3F) What is the next phrase?,..."devoted to prayer."...The word "devoted" means to be "~~strong~~ ^{committed} towards prayer". Now, I find that a lot of us are weak towards prayer and we wonder why we are not mature in love. You see, the whole thing is put together. Rejoicing in the return of Christ, Christ could return at any moment. So, whatever you are doing, do it now. The Lord is coming. You ~~are~~ are rejoicing in that hope. It is just pouring out of your life. And this will cause you to be patient. You can endure a lot ^{of pressure}

The Bible says in Ephesians 4 concerning the members of the ~~body~~ ^{church} in Vs 2 "forbearing one another in love." The word "forbearing" means "to put up with one another." You know, sometimes we have to do that, don't we?

Now, if I ask you to think of someone who rubs you the wrong way, I bet you could. Just like that, you could probably think of someone who rubs you the wrong way.

You know, it is amazing, God wants you to love everybody in the church, but always when there is someone who isn't in my ~~cert~~ ^{Certain} ~~AIN~~ ^{Certain} group of friends, it is very difficult to love them.... *Right*

The love that rejoices in the hope of Christ's coming, ~~that~~ ^{and they} knows that that brother or sister is going to be in heaven with me, and he will be changed (thank God), I ~~was~~ ^{was} now love him. You see.....

Oh, this could change your whole attitude. Some of us are so unconcerned about loving someone else. You know, just not our kind of people.

Forget that! Love everybody. Minister to everybody. Because, listen, the Lord is coming. And it will cause you to endure a lot. To put up with a lot of people. Those ugly members of the church....Of course, it is always someone else, isn't it? It would never be us, would it?..

We need to love each other. And we need to understand that love must perform. These are the characteristics which describe it. But if it is going to be mature you must be ^{committed} ~~strong~~ towards prayer. If you are weak towards prayer, you in no way will ~~experiences~~ experience God's love as you should.

There is something important here. Praying for one another. If you want to love somebody, then start praying for them. Pray for their needs. Be strong towards prayer. When you are praying for someone and you meet them your whole attitude will change...Why?...Because you are praying....

And praying, you see, is indicating our confidence and trust in the Lord. I am rejoicing in his coming. I am going to endure and put up with things because I know that Christ is coming. And I am going to be strong towards prayer. Because I trust God to pour His love through my life.

You see, the whole thing is related.

(5E) Now, the fifth thing that we want to look at is involving our ministry to others. That is Vs 13. Your ministry to others. There are two things that are said here. And they are very important.

(1F) The first thing ^{Paul says} ~~that is said~~ is "contributing to the needs of the saints. In our ministry to other believers we are to contribute to the needs of the saints. The word "contribute" (KJ -distribute) is our old friend Koinonia, which means "fellowship."

It appears all the time in the Bible...Fellowship... It means "to share in common." The Bible says "sharing the needs of the saints, who are believers. Sharing the needs of believers.

Some folks translate: "putting your money where your mouth is".. Isn't it amazing how we are always trusting "THEY" or "an organization", to meet the needs. Rather than an individual who loves stepping forth and saying GOD WANTS ME. GOD PROVIDED SO THAT I COULD MEET THE NEEDS OF OTHERS.

And friends, nother will thrill your heart more. I ~~hope you will~~
~~unlease all of that pride.~~ We just need to get ~~rid of~~ ^{made} ~~all of that~~ and
learn to just open up our hearts to giving to people who are in need.

I don't mean without thought. The Bible says "contributing to the needs
of the saints."...To the believers....

I don't read anywhere in the Bible where the christian is obligated to
give money to the non-believing world. I don't read that once in the Bible.

Now, I may do that in order to win a person to christ. But I do read in
the Bible that believers are responsible to other believers in ^{this} ~~the~~ matter.
And we need to share, very difinitely, in one anothers needs.

And you know, nothing thrills your heart more than to help a brother or
sister in need. It is tremendous.

Let me give to you a little verse from Luke. Jesus said: "Make to
yourself friends with the money of unrighteousness." Meaning that money has
no righteous qualities to it. Money is an amenit object. It depends on how
you use it. ^uMake to yourself friends with the money of unrighteousness. Then
when it fails, when your money runs out, they (meaning the ~~fr~~ ^{made} people you
made friends with) will receive you in everlasting dweilling places."

That is quite a statement../..

That means when you get to heaven some folks will be glad to see you.

^u Hay, John, boy I just praise God for you. Do you remember when you meet my
needs back there on planet earth? Over there in ~~Taft~~ ^{Alameda}? You know, ~~you~~ ^{you} help
really blessed me."

You are going to have friends, the Bible says. People say that money
can't buy friends. Now, I know what you mean by that when the motivation is
wrong. But when the motivation is right. And you are using your money to
meet needs, ^{and you are Lovin's} you will make friends, ^{says the Bible} ~~in this check~~

You know, it would be wonderful if we could really start looking to one
another; and really contributing to the needs of the sanits.

(2nd) The second thing that I learn here about our ministry one to another is
the principle of practicing hospitality. The word "practice" means to "seek
after with enthusiasm..."

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And, this word "hospitality" has a great little meaning. It means: love of strangers. You love to be hospitable. It is not the kind of thing where you say, Let's have Mr. and Mrs. Smith over for dinner. After all, it is our turn. Or, they had us over last month, so let's have them over this month.

Oh, no. That is not what Paul is talking about. He is talking about loving it. Getting excited about it. Having people into your home because you want to minister to them. Because you want to share your love with others. That, dear friends, is a wonderful thing.

And listen, when we have this ministry going on in this church we are going to see wonderful results.

Some one new moves into your neighborhood or apartment...Bang..you invite them over to get acquainted and to share Christ with them.

You see someone new in Church....bang...you invite them over to your home to get to know them and help them with needs.

You see someone new in church and you know that your Sunday School class is having a party this week...~~bang~~g...you invite them to your class party so that they can meet others within the church.

You see a brother or sister in the store and you haven't seen them in church for some time...bang..you invite them over and minister to them.

Dear friends, this is what it needed in our church. Oh, how we need to love one another without hypocrisy. A love that is real and is communicated. And if that love is real it will effect our morality; it will effect our motivation; it will effect our operation; it will effect our maturity in the Lord; and it will effect our ministry with others.

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." (I John 4:7)

Let's Close In Prayer