

By our Love

Romans 12:9-21

FOR OUR CONSIDERATION:

Love as Lifestyle (Verses 9-13)

- It should be understood that the sincerity mentioned of the Apostle here is with respect to unconditional love or, the love of Christ.
 - There are (according to the Greco-Roman world), different “types” of love. However, the love necessary to be sane and saved in this world is the love of Christ.
- This love should be sincere. Genuine. Unrehearsed.
 - Whatever hatred we possess should be toward “evil”.
 - We are to cling toward what is good. (Connect, Develop Attraction to)
 - Be selfless and put others before ourselves (Humility)
 - Maintain enthusiasm and engagement (we serve the LORD)
 - *Joyful in Hope (Jesus Christ is the “Hope of Glory”)*
 - *Patient in Affliction (Develops the character of Christ within)*
 - *Faithful in Prayer (Prayer is essential to our hearing GOD and being in GOD’s Presence)*
 - Practice the “Ministry of Kindness”
 - Christians are Hospitable not Hostile.

Love as Conduct (Verses 14-21)

- A challenge for anyone is to be gracious to those who do us harm and mean us no good.
 - The culture says “eye for an eye” but Jesus (counter-cultural) says “turn the other cheek”
 - Just as Christ was counter-cultural so is the GOD who sent Him.
 - As the children of GOD, we must strive to attain such strength in love.

- Christians are empathetic people. When community is up, we should be up. And when it is down, we should be there to support them likewise.
- Harmony is an offspring of Unity.
 - Our lives -informed by the love of Christ, should create melody nor misery.
- We are not arrogant or haughty.
 - In light of the Lord's reaching "way down" to save us, we should be willing to engage people of low estate -regardless of how they got here.
- Do not seek vindication or revenge!
- Concentrate on doing what is right in front of everyone (including the Lord)
- IF possible, live AT peace with all people (different than 'IN peace')
- The LORD reserves the exclusive rights to the enemy and all matter of offense against creation and specifically against the children of GOD.
- With the love of Christ, we are encouraged and empowered to:
 - Help to meet the essential needs of our enemies WHILE,
 - Moving them (in their unrepentant state), further to destruction.
- We will overcome because of using good over and against evil.