

Studies in Christianity Christian Love #10

S#1.

How We Love One Another

S#2.

Text : **Romans 12: 1-21**

A. What makes a Christian ? We've been studying the DNA of Christianity. S#3.

1. We have observed that it requires a complete transformation.
2. This transformation is not instant, there is a maturation process.
3. The maturation process produces a different lifestyle.
4. A new lifestyle means new goals which produce fruit for God.
5. Our lives are conformed to the will of God as revealed in His inspired word.
6. No positive move toward God goes unopposed so Satan attacks via our flesh..
7. Love for God enables us to overcome the sinful desires of our flesh.
8. Love for our fellowman changes our relationship with the world.
9. Love for the lost causes the Christian work at his ambassadorship.

B. Our last lesson introduced the topic of love for our brethren in Christ,

1. Jesus taught us that love between the brethren was to be the hallmark of His church.
John 13: 34 – A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, **S#4.**
even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.
2. For the first 300 years this love was characteristic of the church, but as the physical threat to the church diminished, so did the commitment to actively loving each other.
3. Our love entails some emotion, but it's fundamentally a commitment to action.
4. This active love is a learned skill, not a natural emotional response.
5. We are instructed to love in the same way Jesus loved .. serving, sacrificially, etc.
6. Our salvation is directly linked to our willingness to love the brethren.
I John 4: 7 – Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and **S#5.**
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8** The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love

C. This lesson will focus on one admonition from God to love each other. S#6.

1. We will first establish the context.
2. We will see our abilities used for love.
3. We will look at characteristics of loving each other.

I. The context of this text from God.**S#7.****A. Vs. 1-2 THEREFORE ... Because of what went before.****S#8.**

- b. Points of writer's lesson.
- c. Application
- 2. Chapter 12 begins the application section of the epistle to the Romans.

B. Because of the love, mercy and grace of God shown in Jesus we should :

- 1. Vs. 1 .. .Commit ourselves to God body and soul.
- 2. This commitment of our lives to God is a form of worship.

C. Vs. 2 .. .Commit will bring about a changed life as we conform to His image.

- 1. This changed life is brought about by a changed mind ... altered value system.
- 2. As we change, the world will remain the same so we will be out of conformity.
- 3. God's will becomes observable in our new lifestyle.

D. Vs. 3-8 By conforming our lives to the image of Christ, we recognize ourselves as equal parts of a whole. (compare ... I Cor. 12)

- 1. We develop respect for the other equal parts of that whole.
- 2. Recognize that God uses the strengths of each of His children.
- 3. God deliberately puts people with differing abilities in each congregation.

1 Cor 12:18-20 – But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. **19** If they were all one member, where would the body be?

S#9.

- 4. Congregations need people with differing life experiences and abilities.

* 5. No one is without ability so YOU must find and use your gift for God.

S#10.**II. The Lord's Apostle gives us a partial list of abilities used to communicate love.****A. Service .. John 13 .. Everyone can and should serve, but have a special ability.**

- 1. **Gal. 5: 13** – For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **14** For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (compare ... **Mark 10: 34**)
- 2. **Thus**, loving includes serving one another,
- 3. Servant translates the word "*diakonos*" **I Tim. 3: 13** – served well as deacons

S#11.**B. Teaching ,, Some people have the ability to stand before a class and other don't**

- 1. **II Cor. 5: 20** ... As ambassadors, **ALL** of us must communicate the gospel.

2. Everyone can talk / teach one on one ... *do not be ashamed of the gospel.*

Titus 2: 3 – Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not **S#12.**
malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,
4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands,
to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind,
being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not
be dishonored. (*not done in a classroom*)

C. Exhort ... (parakaleō) ... is defined as to call to or for, to exhort, to encourage:

1. Translated as “Urge, urged, urging 24 times ... Encourage / d/ ing 13 times
2. **Heb. 10: 23** – And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and **S#13.**
good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the
habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all
the more as you see the Day drawing near. (ESV)

D. Gives ... give with liberality **S#14.**

1. In the beginning Christians lived a communal lifestyle. (*not a doctrine*)
Acts 4: 32 – And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart
and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging
to him was his own, but all things were common property to them.
2. Some people have a natural ability to make money. (*Supporter owned restaurants*)

E. Leads ... to set or to place before; to set over **S#15.**

1. Leaders are to set the pace.
2. Followers do not surpass the leaders. (*Have you seen the march, I'm their leader*)
3. Every flock needs elders to lead it and to superintend it.
Matt. 9: 36 – Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because
they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

F. Show mercy ... Cheerfully ... An expression of one's character, **S#16.**

1. People who love each other are grateful for an opportunity to be of help.
2. Not like Moses at the waters of Meribah
Exod. 20: 10 – Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you
out of this rock?

S#17.

III. Vs. 9–13 The Apostle now lists a few characteristics of love between brethren.

A. Vs. 9 – Let love be without hypocrisy. **S#18.**

1. Love must emanate from the heart, not be just for show. (*Part of one's character*)

2. The Apostle Peter gives the same admonition as the Apostle Paul.

I Pet. 1:22 – Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, (*philadelphia*) fervently love (*agapaō*) one another from the heart, **23** for you have been born again

- a. Two kinds of love are used here ... family love and commitment love.
- b. If “born again” one must establish a relationship with God’s family and work at it.

3. Vs. **9b** – Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

- a. This is not a carnal kind of love like the world knows.
- b. One must be “purified” to prepare himself for this kind of love. –

B. Vs. 10 – Be devoted to one another in brotherly love;

S#19.

- 1. Devoted is a word for love “*philostorgos*”. (**compound** = *Philadelphia* + *storge*)
- 2. Defined as : fond of natural relatives, loving tenderly
- 3. Especially “the mutual love of parents and children and wives and husbands.”
- 4. This emphasizes the family nature of the church; *we’re all God’s children, siblings.*

C. Vs. 10b – give preference to one another in honor;

- 1. Give preference “*proēgeomai*” means “to set before” to give priority to loving them.
- 2. Our love for the brethren is NOT a reaction, but is proactive.
- 3. Christians can be comfortable with each other much more than with worldly people.

D. Vs. 11 – not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

S#20.

1. not lagging behind in diligence (*One puts effort in that which he values*)

S#21.

- a. We are to work at our relationship in the family of God. (*Learned skill*)
- b. God will help us develop the diligence we need if we ask and work at it.

Phil. 2: 13 – work out your salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

2. fervent in spirit, (**Jer, 20: 9** ... *word like a fire burning his bones*)

S#22.

- a. Literally : Fervent (*zeō*) to boil with heat, be hot
- b. Metaphorically : used of boiling anger, love, zeal, for what is good or bad
- c. God pronounced judgment on those whose love had grown cold.:
 - 1) **Matt. 24: 12** – Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. **13** But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.
 - 2) **Rev. 3:15** – I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. **16** ‘So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

3. serving the Lord;

S#23.

- a. We maintain a fervent love because we are “enslaved to the Lord.”
- b. The body must be joyously bound together by love to accomplish His goal.
- c. Christians were not captured or sold into slavery ... we all volunteered.

E. Vs. 12 – rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

- 1. rejoicing in hope ... Joy is much more motivational when shared
- 2. persevering in tribulation ... a multistrand rope is stronger (*roman symbol, fascēs*)
- 3. devoted to prayer ... Praying together calls the ultimate power and reinforce our faith

F. Vs. 13 – contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

1. contributing to the needs of the saints (*holy ones*)

S#24.

- a. Love requires that we help each other.

I John 3: 17 – But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

- b. We do goods to for everyone, **but** we have a special responsibility to each other.

Gal. 6: 10 – So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

2. Vs. 13b – practicing hospitality

S#25.

- a. Hospitality (*philoxenia*) love of strangers : — entertain stranger,
- b. **Heb. 13: 2** – Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.
- c. **Matt. 25: 43** – I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'

IV. What have we learned ?

S#26.

A. Christians sincerely love each other in very practical ways.

S#27.

B. We must apply ourselves to developing the bonds between brethren.

INVITATION :

S#28.

A. Are you in God's family circle ?

B. God will adopt you if you will commit yourself.

S#29. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Romans 12: 1-21**

1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. **4** For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, **5** so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **6** Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; **7** if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; **8** or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. **10** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; **11** not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; **12** rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, **13** contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. **16** Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. **17** Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. **19** Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord. **20** "*but if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.*" **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.