

SERMON STUDY SUMMARY

Romans Part 26 – Glorifying God in our Relationships

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INTRODUCTION

True fulfillment in life comes from worshipping and glorifying God with our lives. Romans 12 describes what this God-glorifying life looks like in service to others (Rom 12:3-8) and in our relationships (Rom 12:9-13). Ever since the Fall mankind has been searching for love and intimacy that can only be found in knowing God (1 John 4:7). When we embrace Christ in faith, that deep spiritual need is satisfied. He then uses us to reflect His love to others and draw many to Himself. Romans 12:9-13 describes how we can love one another as Christians.

1. **Love Is Genuine** (Rom 12:9). Society broadly objectifies love, from loving a person to loving pizza. It's meaning fluctuates as one's feelings change. The Greeks had different words for expressing love – brotherly, family, erotic and divine. Paul uses the divine word: Agape. It is a decision, not a feeling, to love whether or not that love is returned or if one is worthy of it. Sincere love is genuine love, not hypocritical but loving others as Christ loved us.
2. **Love Is Based in God's Truth** (Rom 12:9). God hates evil because it hurts people and damages relationships (Prov 6:16-19). Christians are to hate what God hates and take a loving stand against it; we cannot ignore it.
3. **Love Is Devoted to Others** (Rom 12:10). The Greek Paul uses refers to a deep friendship or family type of love. Love within the church should resemble that found within a healthy nuclear family, not merely an event one attends but where one belongs. However, experiencing this requires building quality relationships where love is genuine.
4. **Love Puts Others First** (Rom 12:10). To honor means to treat someone or something as precious. All humanity is precious because every person is made in the image of God for whom Jesus died. Paul is implying that we seek to outdo one another in giving honor to others over ourselves, expressing appreciation and encouragement regardless of who gets the credit.
5. **Love is Passionate About Serving the Lord** (Rom 12:11). Zeal is enthusiasm and passion arising from inner conviction, not religious duty. God can't stand those who sit on the fence and play church (Rev 3:15-16) but is glorified by those who are passionate about Him and the things that matter to God. We maintain our zeal by:
 - a. **Remembering who we are serving** (vs 11). We serve not people but the Lord (Col 3:23-24).
 - b. **Reminding ourselves of the hope we have in Christ** (vs 12). Remember what God has done for you. Whatever may happen, nothing can separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.
 - c. **Being patient** (vs 12). God is with us in all our trials and we can trust Him even when we don't understand what is happening.
 - d. **Being faithful in prayer** (vs 12). Prayer helps us see situations through God's perspective and reminds us that God is God and we are not. We can confidently leave our concerns with Him knowing that He is in control.
6. **Love Is Generous** (Rom 12:13). There will always be people who are in need. By stewarding our resources well, as a spiritual family, we can help by supporting compassionate ministries, those in our community group, or by being creative in practicing hospitality.

By keeping our eyes on Him and asking Him to daily lead and guide us in demonstrating His love we will grow in love and good deeds (Heb 10:24-25). Walk in relationship with like-minded Christians, challenging one another to live, love and serve the way Christ called us to.

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Who have made the most lasting impression on your life? What impressed you about them?
2. Throughout your life how has the definition of love changed for you? What is it now?

UP – PURSUE GOD

3. Romans 12:1-13 is broken up into 3 parts. How do the first two parts (verses 1-2, 3-8) interrelate with verses 9-13? How is each part indispensable without the others?
4. Read Romans 12:11-12 and Revelation 3:15-16. What importance is given to being zealous? What does it mean to be zealous? How may living verse 12 help you to maintain your spiritual fervor?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Romans 12:9-13 sets forth the marks of a true Christ-follower. Which of these admonitions do you find easiest to follow? Share what you do to follow them. Which ones are hardest for you? Pray for and encourage one another.
6. Look at the list of 7 things that God hates in Proverbs 6:16-19. Consider your reaction to each. Do you hate what God hates or do you shrug at it? Pray as a group that you may courageously express God's heart as you lovingly respond to evil.

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

Where are you on your 'zeal-meter'? Ask a friend to answer that for you as well. Commit to asking the Lord to lead and guide you daily and respond to his nudges. If you are not in relationship with like-minded Christians, pray that God will reveal some for you to approach. Memorize Colossians 3:23-24 and Hebrews 10:24-25.

THE WORD (NIV)

Romans 12:9-13

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Revelation 3:15-16

¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Proverbs 6:16-19

¹⁶ There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him:

¹⁷ haughty eyes,

a lying tongue,

hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked schemes,

feet that are quick to rush into evil,

¹⁹ a false witness who pours out lies

and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

Colossians 3:23-24

²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

This week's writers: Gene and Karen Gibbs, Elsa Henderson, and Jorel Quemuel