

Mature in Love

Love in Romans

Faith Hope and Love as the structure of Paul's letter to the Romans		
Faith: Romans 1-4	Hope: Romans 5-11	Love: Romans 12-15
Faith x 31 Hope x 2 Love x 1	Faith x 17 Hope x 9 Love x 7	Faith x 10 Hope x 5 Love x 8
Structure of the argument		
1:16-17 The centrality of faith in the life of the Christian 1:18-3:10 The Faithlessness of humanity and the justice of God 3:21-26 God intervenes to bring about faith by his action at the cross 3:27-4:25 Example from the story of Israel	5:1-5 The centrality of hope in the life of the Christian 5:6-8:8 The hopelessness of humanity apart from grace 8:9-39 God intervenes to bring about hope by sending his Spirit 9:1-11:36 Example from the story of Israel	12:1-8 The Call to "perfection": Doing God's will, what is good and pleasing and perfect - Building up the body - 12:9-10 Love, Love, Love 12:11-21 Specific details 13:1-14:23 Specific examples 15:1-13 - Building up your neighbor and being united in Christ -
Chapter titles		
Rom 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith ,	Rom 4:18 In hope he believed against hope ,	10 Be affectioned to love one another with brotherly love .

Love in 5-11

Rom 5:5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's **love** has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Rom 5:8 but God shows his **love** for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 8:28 And we know that for those who **love** God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the **love** of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Rom 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who **loved** us.

Rom 8:39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the **love** of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 9:13 As it is written, "Jacob I **loved**, but Esau I hated."

Love in 12-15

Rom 12:9 Let **love** be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

Rom 13:8 Owe no one anything, except to **love** each other, for the one who **loves** another has fulfilled the law.

Rom 13:9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself."

Rom 13:10 **Love** does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore **love** is the fulfilling of the law.

Rom 14:15 For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in **love**. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.

Love and the call to perfection

ESV: Rom 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (2) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

NIV: Rom 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

NIV takes three adjectives that Paul uses and applies them directly to God's will, speaking of *his good, pleasing and perfect will*. But this may not be the best way of taking the Greek. It is tautology to say that God's will is pleasing to God. We should rather see the three adjectives preceded by the article as meaning "the thing that is good and pleasing and perfect." It is that which is the will of God.¹

Part 1: Use your gifts in service to one another

Rom 12:3-8 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. (4) For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, (5) so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (6) We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; (7) if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; (8) if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

The love trifecta: (12:9-10) Love must be sincere. Love one another lovingly.

Part 2: Let me spell it out for you

Rom 12:9-21

- (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.
- (14) Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- (15) Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
- (16) Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.
- (17) Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.
- (18) If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
- (19) Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.
- (20) On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."
- (21) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

¹ Morris, L. (1988). [*The Epistle to the Romans*](#) (p. 436). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.

Part 3: The governing principle

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength

Rom 13:1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Love your neighbor as yourself

Rom 13:8-10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. (9) The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (10) Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Part 4: Specific examples

Rom 14:10 You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

Rom 14:13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

Part 5: The example of Christ

Rom 15:5-7 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, (6) so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (7) Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Joh 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (35) By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Luk 10:25-28 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (26) He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" (27) And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." (28) And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

Mat 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" (37) And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (38) This is the great and first commandment. (39) And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (40) On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Rev 2:19 I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance
Thyatira: ...you are now doing more than you did at first.

Rev 2:20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.

Ephesus: Rev 2:2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance.

Rev 2:4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

Rev 2:5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.