

# Loving our Christian Family

Romans 12:9 *Let **love** be without **dissimulation**. **Abhor** that which is evil; **cleave** to that which is good. 10 **Be kindly affectioned** one to another with brotherly love; in honour **preferring one another**; 11 **Not slothful** in business; **fervent** in spirit; **serving** the Lord; 12 **Rejoicing** in hope; **patient** in tribulation; **continuing instant** in prayer; 13 **Distributing** to the necessity of saints; given to **hospitality**.*

1. Love without faking it Romans 12:9 *Let **love** be without **dissimulation**. **Abhor** that which is evil; **cleave** to that which is good.*
  - a. Obedience. We are living sacrifices. So we love because that is what we are to do Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies **a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your **reasonable service**. 2 And **be not conformed to this world**: but be ye transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

- b. We are commanded to love **I Peter 4:8** **And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.**
- i. This is a love that stretches itself. It speaks of the intensity of our love. It is reaching out and continuing to reach out
  - ii. It is a love that says that I have been forgiven and I can forgive others. The forgiven forgive
  - iii. It doesn't hold the insults, slights, and mistreatments of others against them
  - iv. We are to love like He loved us **John 13:34** **A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35** **By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**
    1. He loved us when we didn't deserve it
    2. He loves us expecting nothing in return
    3. He loved us first before we ever started loving Him
- c. We must honestly examine our hearts. Do we love others without hypocrisy, especially those in the Church?

- d. Loving doesn't mean being easy on sin [Romans 12:9](#) *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*
- i. Loving someone doesn't mean excusing sin.
  - ii. My love for God is so great that I hate what He hates
  - iii. So in no way do I act like sin is of no consequence.  
Remember the story of I Corinthians 5 and how the church boastfully was tolerant of the man's sin
  - iv. We grab on to what is right. We love it. Love means that I love truth.
- e. This love is expressed by how I treat my brothers and sisters [10](#) *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*
- i. The word affectioned is devoted, disposed to the other
  - ii. I am to do that with kindness
  - iii. We are to be devoted to each other
  - iv. This devotion is what we have in the family. It is brotherly love. It is being there for each other.
  - v. The we are to prefer each other
  - vi. The idea here is almost arguing about who gets preference
  - vii. It means to honor them more I want and expect honor

viii. It is the idea of outdoing each other in showing honor

2. Be diligent in your love and service **11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;**
  - a. Not being lazy in our service to the Lord
  - b. Not being lazy in our love for our Christian family
    - i. Love costs. It hurts. Paul is an example of that to the church at Corinth **II Corinthians 12:15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.**
    - ii. It means giving of yourself. Thinking of others. Putting yourself second
    - iii. Don't be lazy as you live out your living sacrifice
  - c. The idea here is to work with a heart boiling over with love
  - d. This is like the love of God boiling up in my heart and being spread abroad over everyone **Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts** by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
  - e. Serving the Lord is referring to us as slaves. We serve Him at His pleasure. He wants me to love Him and others

- f. We are to work at loving. This is not just a feeling that we get but a service that we render as we serve the Lord
3. Having the right attitude **12 Rejoicing** in hope; **patient** in tribulation; **continuing instant** in prayer;
- a. Rejoicing in hope means that we find joy in our hope  
**Habakkuk 3:17 Although** the fig tree shall not blossom, **Neither shall** fruit *be* in the vines; The labour of the olive shall fail, And the fields shall yield no meat; The flock shall be cut off from the fold, And *there shall be* no herd in the stalls: **18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,** I will joy in the God of my salvation.
  - i. Our hope is Jesus Christ and what He did for us on Calvary
  - ii. Our hope is knowing that a big, great God has everything under control
  - iii. Our hope is that the God that saved us is giving us the strength to do the will of God and will reward us for His service
  - iv. Our hope is that He is a God that hears and answers prayer

v. So we are excited. We have joy. We are in love with Him. We are serving Him

b. Patient in tribulation **Psalm 37:5 Commit thy way unto the Lord; Trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.** **6** And **he shall bring forth** thy righteousness as the light, And thy judgment as the noonday. **7 Rest** in the Lord, and **wait patiently** for him: Fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, Because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

i. This refers to enduring difficult situations without running from them

1. This is what Joseph did when he knew he had a dream from God but waited

2. This is what David did when he knew that he was already anointed to be king of Israel yet would wait years before becoming king

ii. It means staying and doing right no matter what is going on around us

iii. Patient means waiting on God in the middle of trouble and things going wrong

- iv. Patience means having peace when everything around you seems to be falling apart.
  - v. You have this peace because of your hope. You know who you are. You know who you are trusting
- c. Continually praying
- i. Being patient and having joy doesn't mean you quit praying
  - ii. You keep asking God and waiting
  - iii. You keep making your requests known and thanking Him for how He is going to work in and through what is going on in your life **Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord** *always: and* again I say, Rejoice. **5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be careful for nothing;** but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving **let your requests be made known unto God. 7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
  - iv. You know you serve a God that hears and answers prayer **Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him:** for he that cometh to God must believe

that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

4. Love is not a feeling but an action **13 Distributing** to the necessity of saints; given to **hospitality**.
  - a. The believers were to meet the needs of their brothers and sisters in Christ **Galatians 6:10** As we have therefore opportunity, **let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.**
  - b. We are to be laboring in love as we serve other brothers and sisters in Christ **Hebrews 6:10** For God *is not* unrighteous to **forget your work and labour of love,** which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have **ministered to the saints, and do minister.**
    - i. Notice the word work, labor, and minister.
    - ii. All based on love
    - iii. Doing it for His name



- c. Doing good and giving are sacrifices that please God  
**Hebrews 13:16** But to **do good** and to **communicate**  
forget not: for with such sacrifices God is **well pleased.**
- i. We are to be a people of good works **Ephesians 2:10**  
For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ**  
**Jesus unto good works,** which God hath  
before ordained that we should **walk in them.**
- ii. Communicate here refers to giving or sharing
- iii. That is how the church worked in the book of Acts
- iv. That is how it is to work now
- d. We give to our brothers in Christ **I John 3:17** But whoso  
hath this world's good, and **seeth his brother** have  
need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from  
him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?
- e. We open our homes for other brothers in Christ.  
**I Peter 4:9** Use hospitality one to another without  
grudging. **Hebrews 13:2** Be not forgetful to entertain  
strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels  
unawares.

- Do you genuinely love your Christian family?
- Do you work at serving and loving others?
- Do you keep a right attitude with other Christians no matter how you are treated?
- Do you continue trusting God when things seem to be falling apart in your life?
- Are you a giver?
- Are you opening your house and life to love and serve your brothers and sisters in Christ?