

Evening Worship / May 21, 2023
"Love in Action" Romans 12:10-21

I. How we should be with each other –

¹⁰ **Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; Romans 12:10 (NKJV)**

As brothers and sisters in Christ

1. *We should show real affection to each other!* ¹⁰ **Be kindly affectionate to one another**
2. *Brotherly love – Greek word is Philadelphia --- because of love with brotherly love*
3. *We should honor one another by preferring one another – in honor giving preference to one another; Romans 12:10 C (NKJV)*
 - A. *Christians should hire Christians*
 - B. *Christians should vote for Christians*
 - C. *Christians should cheer for Christians*
 - D. *We give preference in honor to each other, more than to ourselves ...*

II. How we should be using our gifts –

¹¹ **not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Romans 12:11–13 (NKJV)**

1. *Not lazy, or overcoming laziness with diligence*
 2. *Fervent not with heat, zealous, excited in spirit (lowercase s) but this comes only by God's Holy Spirit*
 3. *Serving the Lord (some of our work is lonely work, as far as other mere human beings are concerned) but God is always with us, and always sees us, and see what we do, or what we do NOT DO -Puritan Work Ethic.*
- ¹⁷ **Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. James 4:17 (NKJV)**
4. *Rejoicing in hope – ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation Romans 12:12 A*

Hope is always for something currently out of sight, beyond us, but as represented in Scripture, SURE!

⁴ **For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Romans 15:4 (NKJV)**

¹² **And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope."** ¹³ **Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:12–13 (NKJV)**

5. *Patience and hope go together –*

³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 (NKJV)

6. *Prayer – continuing steadfastly in prayer; Romans 12:12 (NKJV)*

7. *Generosity & Hospitality –*

¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Romans 12:13 (NKJV)

III. How we should be in challenging situations -

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 set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore “*If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.*” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:14–21 (NKJV)

1. *In persecution bless - :14*

Nothing is more difficult for a believer. Persecution in the Biblical sense is always receiving evil or ill treatment because of good. If we are doing evil, we are not, or cannot be “persecuted” if we are doing evil, we are judged or receiving discipline.

This command is not only about retaliatory actions but also thoughts!

We are to have an inward desire to bless our persecutors!

Not because they deserve the blessing, they do not. Rather because God wants His children to be different, better!

2. *Rejoice with those who rejoice – :15*

“We might be ready to think that it is easy and natural to rejoice with those who rejoice. In mutual jollification it is natural to be joyful. But this is not the joy spoken of here. The rejoicing is that which arises from gratification before the Lord and in the Lord (*cf.* Phil. 4:4). In contrast with the weeping of the next clause there must be in view some particular occasion for special joy because of God’s favor and blessing, some distinguishing manifestation of grace bestowed upon those who are designated as “them that rejoice”. The point of the exhortation is that we are to enter into this rejoicing as if the occasion for it were our own. If we love our neighbor as ourselves, if we appreciate the community within the body of Christ, the joys of others will be ours (*cf.* 1 Cor. 12:26b). This mutuality is not native to us. Jealousy and envy, hatred and malice are our native bents (*cf.* Gal. 3:20, 21; Tit. 3:3) and this exhortation, as much as any in this catalogue of virtues, demonstrates the transformation (*cf.* vs. 2) that must be wrought in those who are “one body in Christ” (vs. 5).” John Murray

3. *Weep with those who weep - :15*

“Not that we must participate in the sinful mirths or mournings of any, but only in just and reasonable joys and sorrows: not envying those that prosper, but rejoicing with them; truly glad that others have the success and comfort which we have not; not despising those that are in trouble, but concerned for them, and ready to help them, as being ourselves in the body. This is to do as God does, who not only has *pleasure in the prosperity of his servants* (Ps. 35:27), but is likewise *afflicted in all their afflictions*, Isa. 63:9.” Matthew Henry

4. *Meaning the above attitudes need to be what we all have toward each other- :16*

¹⁶ **Be of the same mind toward one another.**

Blessed be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love; The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.

Kindred minds, the same mind, a family mind, we all care about each other

“I prayed to God that He would baptize my heart into all conditions so I might be able to enter the needs and conditions of all.” George Fox

5. *Be humble and associate with humble people - :16*

6. *Do not get even, no evil for evil - :17*

7. *Aim for peace - :18*

8. *Leave “vengeance” to God - :19-20*

9. *Overcome evil with Good - :21*

Paul saw someone do this.

1. *Stephen had preached the Gospel faithfully, truthfully, he called sin, “sin” –*

⁵¹ **“You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers *did*, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, ⁵³ who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.” Acts 7:51–53 (NKJV)**

2. *Yet, they were not willing to hear the truth –*

⁵⁴ **When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with *their* teeth. ⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, ⁵⁶ and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”**

⁵⁷ **Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; ⁵⁸ and they cast *him* out of the city and stoned *him*. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Acts 7:54–60 (NKJV)**

3. *Note Paul, still Saul, was overseeing this murder –*
⁵⁸ **and they cast *him* out of the city and stoned *him*. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. Acts 7:58 (NKJV)**

4. *He would also witness Stephen's graciousness as he (Stephen) died -*
⁶⁰ **Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7:60 (NKJV)**

Did God answer Stephen's prayer?

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