

Reading: Romans 12:1-21
Psalm 37:1-11

The Witness of an Attractive Church

“Effective individual evangelism grows out of the context of a healthy, vibrant fellowship of believers, i.e. the church.” Joe Aldrich

“The two greatest forces in evangelism are a healthy marriage and a healthy church.” Joe Aldrich

1. What You Are Personally

⇒ Holiness

vv.1-2 *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

⇒ Humility

v.3 *“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”*

v.16b *“Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.”*

2. What We Are Together

⇒ Unity

v.16a *“Be of the same mind toward one another.”*

vv.4-5. *“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”*

John 17:23 *“I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”*

⇒ Enthusiasm

vv.6-8 *“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”*

⇒ Diligence

v.11 *“...not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.”*

Heb 10:24-25 *“Consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not*

forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

3. How We Treat Each Other

v.9 *“Let love be without hypocrisy.”*

1 Pet 4:8 *“Above all things have fervent love for one another.”*

⇒ Honour

v.10 *“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.”*

“We can be a rather negative lot, always able to see where most of the holes in the church dyke are, knowing who the most obstreperous saints are, and aware of how many uncleansed spots and unpressed wrinkles remain in the church’s robe... There is much to commend the practice, of commending God’s people, when it may be done sincerely. In fact, it is quite commendable.”

Ralph Davis

⇒ Empathy

v.15 *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”*

⇒ Hospitality

v.13 *“...distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.”*

1 Pet 4:8-9 *“Above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.”*

4. How We Treat Others

⇒ Be Friendly

Heb 13:2 *“Do not forget to entertain-strangers [“show hospitality”], for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”*

⇒ Be Forbearing

v.18 *“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”*

vv.17,19-21 *“Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men... Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. 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.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

5. How We Respond to Circumstances

⇒ Joy

v.12 *“...rejoicing in hope”*

⇒ Patience

v.12 *“... patient in tribulation”*

⇒ Prayer

v.12 *“... continuing steadfastly in prayer”*