

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Wednesday Sermon

Date: September 15, 2021

Text: Romans 12:9-21

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Subject: Attitude and behavior of the saints in the churches

In verses 3 through 8 of this 12th chapter, we considered these things:

1. That as members of the Lord's church, we ought ever to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think – but think soberly according as God has dealt to every one of us the measure of faith.
2. That we are all members of one body (the Lord's church) and of members of one another.
3. That we have gifts differing according to the grace given us.
 - a. Let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith.
 - b. Ministry (serving), let us wait on our ministry; wholly and diligently occupied in our serving.
 - c. Teaching, if we have this gift, let us wholly and diligently be occupied with it.
 - d. Giving (imparting of means); do it with simplicity – sincerity and mental honesty.
 - e. Exhorting (animate and encourage to good deeds); in faithfulness,
 - f. Shewing mercy (giving help and aid); with cheerfulness.

Now, we come to chapter 12, verses 9 through 21.

Romans 12:9 (KJV) *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

Let love be without dissimulation – This is middle voice – something which we choose to do or not do. It is without pretension or hypocrisy. Christian charity flows from our will and not our feelings.

Abhor that which is evil; -- Abhor: To hate extremely, or with contempt; to loathe, detest or abominate. Evil which is shown us by the word of God.

Cleave to that which is good. – Cleave to: adhere to; continue with. Good things as opposed to evil.

Romans 12:10 (KJV) Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; -- Being affectioned or moved by kindness, showing love of the brethren.

In honour preferring one another; -- Not seeking honour for ourselves, rather in honour (in uprightness and without hypocrisy) esteem each other better than ourselves; and not indulge evil presumptions or vain imaginations, and groundless jealousies of one another.

Romans 12:11 (KJV) Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

Not slothful in business; -- The word "business" comes from the Greek word: "σπουδη spoude spoo-day" which is translated with these words in other passages: "diligence 5 times, haste 2 times, business 1 time, care 1 time, forwardness 1 time, earnest care 1, time, carefulness 1 time." As we can see the word tells us not to be slack, but industrious and faithful in our chosen profession. Whatever profession is honorable, let us be industrious in it.

Fervent in spirit; --. All of us should first find an appropriate vocation for our labor, and then approach that vocation with intense ardor and zeal.

Serving the Lord; -- Whatever our honorable chosen vocation is, let us consider that we are performing it "as unto the LORD" and not unto men. Let us not be "menpleasers," but perform fervently as unto our Lord.

Romans 12:12 (KJV) *Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;*

Rejoicing in hope; -- That is, the hope of eternal life, which hope is laid before us both sure and stedfast. Since that hope was given us in Christ who is the author and finisher of our faith, we have a secure hope which SHALL be realized – therefore, we rejoice in it.

Patient in tribulation; --We know that tribulation is appointed to us just as we were appointed to believe – and the hope of glory sustains us in in affliction, patiently enduring all that may be appointed to us of the LORD, knowing that ALL things work together for our good as the called of the LORD.

Continuing instant in prayer; -- It is a state of mind. We ought to continually make our requests known to God, giving thanks. We need to draw near to God in full assurance of faith praying in everything and about everything.

Romans 12:13 (KJV) *Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.*

Distributing to the necessity of saints; -- Our property and wealth is our own, but it will be freely given to the saints who are in need.

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. (Galatians 6:6 KJV)

It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things. (Romans 15:27 KJV)

Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. (Philippians 4:15 KJV)

Given to hospitality. – Hospitality comes from a Greek word which literally means “love to strangers.” This means strangers among the saints – those we can welcome and entertain in our homes.

Romans 12:14 (KJV) Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

It is the lot of God's, people in this world to be persecuted by the men of it, in some shape or another, either by words or deeds; either by reviling and reproaching them, and speaking all manner of evil of them; or by hindering them the free exercise of religious worship, by confiscation of their goods, imprisonment of their persons, by violently torturing their bodies, and taking away their lives; under all which circumstances they are taught to –

By "blessing" we think it means to give them good words, mild and soft answers, "not rendering evil for evil, railing for railing", [1Pe 3:9](#); but, on the contrary, blessing, in imitation of Christ, who, "when he was reviled, reviled not again", [1Pe 2:23](#), "bless".

And curse not. – Saints are not to have a mouth full of cursing and bitterness. Such is the character of an unregenerate man, and never is suitable to one who names the name of Christ. Is that not right, brethren? for blessing and cursing to proceed out of the

same mouth, is as absurd and unnatural, as if it should be supposed that a fountain should send forth sweet water and bitter, or salt and fresh, [Jas 3:10](#). The imprecations upon wicked men, used by David and other good men, are no contradictions to this rule; since they were made under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, and were predictions of God's vengeance, which in righteous judgment should fall on them, and are not to be drawn into an example by us. (GOOD POINT!)

Romans 12:15 (KJV) *Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*

Rejoice with them that do rejoice, -- Not in anything sinful and criminal, or in a thing of nought which boosts men's own boastings; all such rejoicing is evil. Let us rejoice with others in things good and laudable, as in outward prosperity. This is more difficult than it sounds – yea, a very difficult task; for unless each of us have a right concern in the prosperity of others, we are very apt to envy it, or to murmur and complain, that we, ourselves are not in equal, or better circumstances. This is also true of spiritual things, with such who rejoice in the discoveries of God's love to their souls, in the views of interest in Christ, and of peace, pardon, and righteousness by him, and in hope of the glory of God; when such souls make their boast in the Lord, the humble hearing thereof will be glad, and will, as they ought to do, join with them in magnifying the Lord, and will exalt his name together.

and weep with them that weep; -- As our Lord Jesus Christ did as he rejoiced with them that rejoiced at the marriage in Cana of Galilee; wept with them that wept, with Martha and Mary at the grave of Lazarus. As our LORD was, we ought to be touched with the infirmities hurts of our brothers and sisters.

Romans 12:16 (KJV) *Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.*

Be of the same mind one toward another. – The same manner for other saints as for ourselves - what we regard or seek for *ourselves*, seek also for our brethren. not seek honors or positions for ourselves, which we do not seek for our brethren; aiming for the same general objects for all.

Mind not high things – That is, to not grasp forthings too high for us, that are out of our reach, and beyond your capacity; nor seek great things for ourselves, as riches, honors, etc.

But condescend to men of low estate. – To condescend here means to be “led away with.” Let us be content with mean and low things in life. Let us take notice of and converse with, men in a low condition, whether in things temporal or spiritual. Such ones are generally the poor in this world, who may be very ignorant and illiterate, as to general knowledge and learning. This may speak of men and women with fewer abilities, of very small gifts, and who are weak in the faith and experience; God help you and I to “be led away” with their weaknesses; that we bear their infirmities, and become all things to them for their good, and God's glory.

Be not wise in your own conceits. – Woe unto us if we are “wise in our own conceits.”

Woe unto *them that are wise* in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! **(Isaiah 5:21 KJV)**

Let us not trust in the conceit of our own supposed superior skill and understanding, and refuse to listen carefully to the counsel and advice of others.

Romans 12:17 (KJV) *Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.*

Recompense to no man evil for evil. -- Recompense means to "pay back!" Render to no man evil for evil--This takes for granted that some will do you evil. Satan and the world hate God's saints who walk with Him; and will do them all permitted evil which the LORD allows or directs. Let us not lay it up against the doer, if evil has been done us. Sadly, some real believers are thoughtless; some jealous, some envious, some possibly even spiteful. Put far away the expectation of "getting even" with anybody. "If any man has"--really has--"a complaint against any, even as the Lord forgave you, so also do ye" ([Col 3:13](#)). The Lord forgets, as well as forgives! ([Heb 8:12](#)).

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Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. (Colossians 3:13 KJV)

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. (Hebrews 8:12 KJV)

Provide things honest in the sight of all men. -- This means to take careful forethought about all we do and say before others, whether saints or sinners. Honest or honorable things will commend themselves to everyone--whether Christians or not. Most of us tend to forget this – to view our lives as a whole, day by day, considering and rejecting whatever in ourselves others might rightly criticize as not honorable or honest.

Romans 12:18 (KJV) *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

If it be possible--as much as in you lieth--be at peace with all men--Paul himself did cause trouble everywhere, as did our Lord, who said, "Think not that I came to send peace on the earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword." But neither Paul nor his Lord was ever the selfish cause of trouble. It is not always possible for a Christian to be at peace with all men, but he can be a peace-lover; a peace-liver; and often a peace-maker, among men. As James says, "The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by them that make peace." It may be that the biggest cause of trouble for a Christian is his claiming "his rights." Let's remember that we are appointed to trials – in which circumstances, we understand this more fully.

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. **(Romans 8:36-37 KJV)**

Romans 12:19 (KJV) *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, -- Believers are, in this life, often sorely tempted to try by their own hand to make things right - which belongs to God only. The motto of Scotland, "Nemo me impune lacessit"--"No one treads on me unpunished!"--applies to every one of us in the flesh throughout the world. Paul wrote: "Give place unto the wrath," God will repay in due time! . As for "the wrath of man," we know it "worketh not the righteousness of God" ([Jas 1:20](#)). Oh, how hard, yea, how impossible, for those of us who have not yielded our bodies a living sacrifice to God, to leave the vengeance wholly in God's hand!

But rather give place unto wrath: For it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the LORD. -- God will recompense in due time.

To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

(Deuteronomy 32:35 KJV)

Romans 12:20 (KJV) *Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.*

Do good to them that hate you! This passage is almost written word for word from the OT:

If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.

(Proverbs 25:21-22 KJV)

Romans 12:21 (KJV) *Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Be not *vanquished or subdued* by injury received from others. Don't allow your temper to become white hot. Don't abandon your Christian principles; Guard your mild, cordial, kind, and benevolent temper – by not allowing yourself to be upset by any opposition or injury which you may experience. Uphold your Christian principles in the middle all opposition and show yourself a follower of the Lamb. You and I will be overcome by evil if we permit our temper to be excited. When we are soon angry, it will lead to being

enraged and revengeful, and we will become entangled in harsh words toward those who have done us wrong!

He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly. (Proverbs 14:29 KJV)

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A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife. (Proverbs 15:18 KJV)

The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression. (Proverbs 19:11 KJV)

but overcome evil with good. -- subdue or vanquish evil by doing good to others. Overcome the evil man, and the evil he has done you, by doing good to him, by feeding him when hungry, by giving him drink when thirsty, by clothing him when naked, and by doing other acts of kindness and humanity to him; which is most likely to make him your friend. If not, it will show that we are conquerors, yea, "more than conquerors", [Ro 8:37](#), through the grace and strength of him that loves you, over Satan, over the corruptions of your own hearts, and over the malice and wickedness of your enemies.