**Let Love Be Without Hypocrisy**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 12:9-15**

**Wednesday Evening**

**February 12, 2025**

**Romans 12:9-16**

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 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. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

**9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.**

Saints, the key ingredient in interpersonal relationships is love—God’s love (agape).

This kind of love is a self-sacrificial love, a love that cares for the well-being of others.

**1 John 4:20-21**

20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

All the gifts that are exercised in the body should be expressed in this love.

To hate what is wrong means turning toward what is good and clinging to it.

This principle is practiced when we are able to detest an evil act while practicing compassion toward the one who has done it.

This principle is also important regarding the exercise of spiritual gifts.

Believers must always be careful that the use of their gifts does not lead them to unloving or evil motives, attitudes, or actions.

**10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;**

Saints, Paul’s charge goes against the value of rugged individualism—the attitude of “doing it all by myself.”

Believers are to show brotherly love to fellow believers, and respect all the gifted people in the church, not just those whose gifts are visible.

**Philippians 2:3-4**

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

That’s the only way that the body of Christ can function effectively and make a positive impact on the unbelieving world.

The Greek word for genuine affection pictures the type of loyalty and affection that family members have for one another.

This kind of love allows for weaknesses and imperfections, communicates, deals with problems, affirms others, and has a strong commitment and loyalty to others.

Such a bond will hold any church together no matter what problems come from without or within.

God’s command for us to delight in honoring each other involves love. To honor means to give a person high value and respect.

As Christians, we honor people because they have been created in God’s image, because they are our brothers and sisters in Christ, and because they have a unique contribution to make to Christ’s church.

**Ephesians 5:21**

submitting to one another in the fear of God

**1 Peter 1:22**

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart…

**11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;**

Saints, as believers who serve the Lord enthusiastically, it follows that we would never want to be lazy.

**Colossians 3:23-24**

23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Paul is not advocating activity for activity’s sake. Rather, we should consistently use our spiritual gifts to serve the body.

We have been called, challenged, and equipped for serving the Lord.

**Ephesians 6:7**

“with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men”

Fatigue may be part of the cycle of service, but apathy (lack of zeal) should not be part of a believer’s life.

Christians must fight against discouragement, depression, and negativeness; they must do their utmost to keep their spiritual temperature high.

**12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;**

Saints, this means that we should look forward with happy anticipation to all that God is planning for us.

**Philippians 4:4-7**

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

We don’t have to fear our future when it is in God’s hands. Christ is the reason that we can be joyful.

When we face trouble or persecution, we are to be patient, for we know God is in control.

A trademark of believers is prayer, for it is our lifeline to God.

We must always be prayerful, both individually and corporately.

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

Saints, for believers, the challenges of the Christian life are constantly shifting between what we experience personally and what we experience because we are part of the body of Christ.

Gifts, love, hope, patience, and prayer are valuable, but they do not take precedence over other believers’ needs.

Because we are members of Christ’s body, we must help those who are in need.

This was another trademark of believers, and it was often what drew nonbelievers to Christianity.

**Acts 2:44**

Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common…

**Acts 2:44-45**

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

**Acts 4:34-37**

34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, 35 and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, 37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

**Acts 11:27-30**

27 And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.

29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. 30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Saints, to get into the habit of inviting guests refers to hospitality. Christian hospitality differs from social entertaining.

Entertaining focuses on the host—the home must be spotless; the food must be well prepared and abundant; the host must appear relaxed and good-natured. Hospitality, in contrast, focuses on the guests.

Their needs—whether for a place to stay, nourishing food, a listening ear, or acceptance—are the primary concern.

Hospitality can happen in a messy home. It can happen around a dinner table where the main dish is canned soup.

Believers should not hesitate to offer hospitality just because they are not wealthy enough to entertain.

**14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.**

Saints, Paul now broadens his perspective to the world where the believers live—in this case, the capital of the empire, Rome itself.

The community of believers was a tiny segment, vulnerable to the edicts of pagan emperors and persecution by any who disagreed with them.

Paul, aware of these realities, counsels believers to avoid trouble by refusing to retaliate when persecuted and to respond with good when they are treated with evil, as Jesus had instructed as well.

**Matthew 5:44**

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you…

**1 Peter 3:9**

not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

**15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.**

Saints, Christians should be happy with others, with no hint of jealousy; and they should share the sorrow of fellow believers, offering kindness, concern, compassion, and a shoulder to cry on if needed.

The believers needed to have this as they dealt with the ups and downs of daily life in their surroundings.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-5**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.

Following Jesus will mean that believers will pass through a kaleidoscope of experiences in life.

Christianity is neither denying life’s hardships, nor dulling life’s excitements.

Our perspective of eternity in Christ can free us to enter into the full variety of living. Both laughter and tears are appropriate before God.

Each has an important place in representing our feelings. Identifying with the joys and heartaches of others is also an important way to show them our love.

**1 Thessalonians 5:13-16**

13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. 14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. 15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. 16 Rejoice always…

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**