

DISPLAY LOVE

Tuesday, June 13

Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Romans 12:9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

The final area Paul focuses on in this chapter is the believer's walk:

In Relation to OTHERS – Key Word: Love (12:9-21). He discusses four areas where love is displayed in the Christian's life.

Love Displayed in our Attitudes (v. 9-10)

1. True love is genuine. It is not faked
2. True love focuses on the good and not the evil
3. True love is devoted to others
4. True love puts others first

Love Displayed in our Actions (v. 11-13)

1. True love is shown in service, not laziness
2. True love is shown in patient prayer in times of trouble
3. True love is shown in giving

Love Displayed in our Difficulties (v. 14-16)

1. True love speaks well of persecutors (Matthew 5:44)
2. True love identifies with others in both their joys and pains
3. True love brings Christian unity
4. True love associates with the lowly instead of being "big-headed"

Love Displayed to our Enemies (v. 17-21)

1. True love does not repay evil for evil. To do the same evil that was done to us shows the world we are no better than them. Everything we do should show the world God's character in our lives.
2. True love seeks for peaceful relationships. In a perfect world, everyone would get along. But believers should never be the cause of dissension. They should all do their part to bring peace to all their relationships.
3. True love does not take revenge. It is God's job to punish the wicked. Love is the opposite of vengeance. Paul quotes Proverbs 25:21-22 to show that believers are to show compassion and help their enemies. To "heap coals of fire on his head" is a colorful way of saying that the believer's kindness may cause their enemies to feel ashamed of their actions and perhaps repent. Overcoming evil can only be done by doing good.

POINTS TO PONDER:

"Overcome Evil With Good." It is human nature to want to return "fire with fire." Our sinful nature wants to get even and "give as good as we get." But this is not God's way. The way of love goes contrary to everything the world teaches. We are to forgive and seek peace with those who hurt us. Even if they never repent or change, forgiveness will free you from the bonds of bitterness. "Forgiveness involves both attitudes and actions. If you find it difficult to feel forgiving toward someone who has hurt you, try responding with kind actions... Many times you will discover that right actions lead to right feelings." ¹

¹ Life Application Study Bible notes, Romans 12:19-21, p 1918.