

## The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

### Romans 12:9-21—Exhortations!

- they are a response to and empowered by God's mercy to us in Christ; concrete instances of the renewed mind of the Christian
- they are exhortations (not automatic) – they must be pursued and practiced
- “sincere love” is the heading of the entire section; what follows explains what love really is

<sup>9</sup> Let love be without hypocrisy.

Abhor what is evil; cleave to what is good.

<sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

<sup>11</sup> not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

<sup>12</sup> rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

<sup>13</sup> contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

(Romans 12:9-13)

### Sincere Love

1. One Foundational Characteristic: *Genuine Love*
2. Two Visceral Attitudes: *Abhor/Cleave*
3. Two Family Attributes: *Affection/Honor*

### Sincere Love

#### 1. Personal Zeal

- resist the tendency to become complacent and lazy in our serving the Lord
- allow the Spirit to “set your spirit on fire” in serving the Lord
- recognize the unmatched privilege of serving the Lord

### Sincere Love

#### 2. Necessary Perseverance

- we presently rejoice in the future glory of God, of which we are partakers; a hope that is certain
- this hope enables us to bear up under tribulations; our present, normal experience
- if we are to rejoice and endure, we must persist in prayer; our vital means of grace

<sup>15</sup> For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers; <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

<sup>18</sup> *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

*These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might <sup>20</sup> which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

(Ephesians 1:15-23)