

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Romans 12:9-21—Exhortations!

- these are a response to and empowered by God's mercy to us in Christ
- 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

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy.

Abhor what is evil; cleave to what is good.

¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

¹¹ not lazy in zeal, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

¹² rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

¹³ contributing to the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality.

(Romans 12:9-13)

Generous Living

1. Sharing in Needs

- we are to share (fellowship) in the needs of the saints by sharing our material goods
- today these material needs must include those of the saints globally

¹³ For *this* is not for the ease of others *and* for your affliction, but by way of equality— ¹⁴ at this present time your abundance *being a supply* for their need, so that their abundance also may become *a supply* for your need, that there may be equality;

(2 Corinthians 8:13-14)

⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

(2 Corinthians 9:8)

Generous Living

2. Pursuing Hospitality

- to welcome and receive a stranger as a guest; usually implied providing nourishment, comfort and lodging
- we are to eagerly pursue hospitality not simply offer it begrudgingly whenever necessary

Generous Living

Q: Why is this central to the Christian life?

- the generous sharing of our possessions is the tangible overflow of experiencing the grace of God in Christ
- how we handle our possessions is a barometer of a spiritual condition

¹⁶ We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

¹⁷ But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

¹⁸ Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

(1 John 3:16-18)

Generous Living

Q: What inhibits generous living?

- Greed and materialism
- Fear of tomorrow
- Fear of man
- Love of comfort and privacy