

## Paul's Instruction on Christian Living

Rom 12:9-13 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.

Paul in verses 3 through 8 has instructed those in place of leadership how to live and lead in the church. Now he speaks to the church as a whole. But it is most important to remember that as Paul now begins to instruct us in "deeds", he has taken 11 chapters to instruct the church in "creeds" that is, in what to believe. I use those terms purposely to respond to the common error in the church today that wants to do away with creeds, Christianity is deeds not creeds.

They err in that they do not realize the importance of knowing "**how and why**" we are Christians before we can properly understand "**how and why**" we are to live as Christians. But Paul having taken quite a bit of time to instruct us in salvation by the grace alone, through faith alone, to the glory of God alone he now instructs us as to how we are to live in this new state that we now find ourselves. We shall simply begin to consider each part of the instruction as Paul has laid it out for us.

This morning we will consider verse 9 – **Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good**

But do you notice what Paul begins with? He begins with **LOVE**. And I think it is most fitting to note that Paul begins with "love" since we are saved because God loved us first and foremost with an everlasting love.

A. Paul's instruction on Christian living - - *Let love be without hypocrisy*

1. Love without hypocrisy

a. This will immediately set us apart from the world.

(1) The world by nature is given to love of self rather than love of others.

(2) Whereas our Lord's instruction to us is that when we performing deeds of love it is to be done without show.

*Matt 6:2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the **hypocrites do** in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have **glory from men**. Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward**.*

(3) But as Christians our acts of love are **not** to be seen of men but to be pleasing to God.

*Matt 6:3-4 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*

b. At the same time it is a love that acts.

(1) It will provide help for one another

(2) It will cause us to speak truth to one-another –

(3) May result in discipline – whom the Lord loves He chastens. –

c. This, above all else, will identify us as God's people.

(1) God is love – we are to love one another as God loves.

(2) Jesus instructs us to love one-another that we may show ourselves to be His disciples.

*John 13:35 By this **all will know that you are My disciples**, if you have love for one another."*

2. Abhor, despise what is evil – that is, despise that which causes harm.
  - a. Why are we to despise evil.
  - b. This is not evil in the sense of good versus bad, but evil which causes harm.
  - c. If one truly loves others it is only natural to despise that which would cause them harm.
  - d. This is why David hated the enemies of God with a "**perfect**" hatred.

*Ps 139:21-22 Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? And do I not loathe **those who rise up against You**? I hate them with **perfect hatred**; I **count them my enemies**.*

- (1) It was not a personal hatred.
- (2) It was a hatred against those who would bring shame to God and harm God's people.
- (3) Proper to despise false teachers.
- (4) Proper to despise those who would lead a brother or sister into error.
- (5) Proper to despise those who cause eternal souls to go to an eternal hell.

3. Cleave to that which is good. – stick like glue
  - a. Notice the contrast here – despise versus cling
  - b. Christians who care **love the truth with a fervency**
  - c. Cling to that which is of value and helpful to others.
  - d. Sound doctrine is good -
  - e. Listen to Paul's instruction to us - **hold fast sound doctrine**.

*1 Thess 5:21 Test all things; **hold fast** what is good.*

*2 Tim 1:13-14 **Hold fast the pattern of sound words** . . . **That good thing which was committed to you, keep** by the Holy Spirit*

- f. Be glued to the truth that no one may take your crown.

Rev 3:11 I am coming quickly! **Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown**.

CONCLUSION: What have we learned.

Love fervently without hypocrisy  
Abhor, despise that which harms  
Be glued to that which is good.  
Amen and amen