

Christian Living (part 2)  
Love One Another as Family in Christ

*Rom 12:10<sup>10</sup> Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.*

As we continue this study on Christian living from Romans 12 I have decided to simply title it "Christian Living, Part 2" because it is going to take me several sermons to cover the great depth of the teaching before us. Indeed I have found my own personal study on this section of Romans a wonderful blessing. Especially when we understand that this instruction is not to make ourselves more acceptable to God, but guide in the manner in which we are to respond to this instruction out of love for what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. Little wonder David wrote, "O how I love your law."

And as we continue through this instruction as to how we are to care for one another let us ever be mindful that if God has loved our brothers and sisters in Christ so greatly that He gave His only Begotten-Son to redeem them. And if our brothers and sisters in Christ were so precious to our Savior that He would shed His blood for us, then without question each member of His Church should be most precious to each one of us. And does not God's love for His church, in itself, tell us how we too ought to love those whom Christ loved with such deep sacrificial love? This morning we shall only have time to consider these two points: 1) We are to love as family, and 2) We are to honor one another.

A. Paul's instruction on Christian living (continued)

4. Christians are to exemplify a brotherly love to one another. - *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love.*

a. We are to have affections as of a relationship of kindred.

b. This word is sometimes translated "natural affection".

(1) As Christians we are to love one-another with the same kind of love of a mother and father for their children.

(2) With the same concern brothers and sister show toward each other - Illustrated by the family of Job (Job 1:4)

(3) Without natural affections (Rom 1:31) as illustrated by the family of Jacob and the brothers attitude toward Joseph.

(4) Where we read of God permitting divorce because of the hardness of heart.

(5) Illustrated today by abortion.

c. But we are to have a family affection for each other.

d. Excellent example of Abraham toward his nephew Lot . (Gen. 13:8,9)

*Gen 13:8-9 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; **for we are brethren**. Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."*

*Ps 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*

e. In the church there should be a deep love for one-another because as Christians we are brothers and sisters in Christ by adoption.

*Rom 8:15-16 ". . . but you received the **Spirit of adoption** by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God**.*

f. Therefore, brotherhood in the church ought not to be a mere name, but a reality,

g. The love of Christ in us compels us for we are to love as Christ loved.

*"For **the love of Christ compels us**, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again," 2 Cor 5:14-15*

5. This kindness will be exemplified by honoring the other more than ourselves. - *in honor giving preference to one another*

a. It is interesting to note here that the literal reading is - *"take leadership in honoring others"*

b. One again this is contrary to "natural man" who desires to be honored above others.

*Mark 12:38-39 "Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts.*

c. We are to be exact opposites from the scribes gladly giving the best seat to others.

*Matt 23:11-12 But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*

CONCLUSION: It is quite clear that if we were to sum up Paul's instruction to the church it is "learn humility".

What was it that brought disharmony to Jacob's sons?

*Joseph's dream - "Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf." And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. Gen 37:5-8*

Had they desired honor for their brother, they would have not known anger.

If we would have peace in the church - we must love with the natural love God intended for families to have toward each other.

If we would have peace in the church - then we must learn to rejoice when the family member is honored above ourselves.

Instead of a tinge of jealousy let us always be quick to rejoice when a brother or sister in Christ is honored.

Let us be ready to yell out, that's my brother, that's my sister, and I love them deeply

Always remembering - God took notice of the widow's mite.