

June 2, 2019 19041-A #36
Romans 12:9-13
The Genuine Love part 1

I. John 13:31-35. The New Commandment is...

- A. Clearly supernatural. As Jesus has loved = God's own love.
 - 1. This is not just human affection or attraction.
- B. Sourced in His love for us.
 - 1. As I have loved you...not just an example but a source
- C. The primary missional characteristic. (1 Cor.13:1-3)
 - 1. This witness of discipleship, the proof that we belong to Christ.
 - 2. The fruit of the Spirit: Love (1 Cor.13; Gal.5:16-26)

II. He draws us into a gracious and supernatural relationship because He loves us. Ch 1-11

- A. It's not about being religious, but trusting Christ. **3:21-22**
- B. It's not about keeping Torah, but living in the Spirit. **8:3-4**

III. We put ourselves on His altar because we love Him. Romans 12:1-2

- A. The logical way to worship – with yourself as the living sacrifice.

IV. He births us into a Grace/Spirit community to learn to love each other. Romans 12:3-8

- A. The Holy Spirit grants faith and giftedness
- B. The Chr. community Holy Spirit equipped, mutual, cooperative, organic enterprise.

V. We learn from Him the skill of “the Genuine Love.” Romans 12:9-13. (beyond normal emotional limits).

Five characteristics The Genuine Love the Spirit is developing in us...

- A. Moral Discernment. 9
 - 1. Genuine: unhypocritical, sincere, genuine.
 - 2. Discerning: Hating/abhorring evil, embracing good.
 - a) Abhor = to hate deeply and shrink away from, abhor, to regard with horror or loathing.
(1) Not simply angry at evil, but repulsed by it.
 - b) Cling to = to be glued to, to cling tenaciously, hold on tight
 - 3. *Dilemma: hating what is morally wrong without hating the people that are in it or doing it...This is a supernatural ability and skill that only the Holy Spirit teaches. There is no cookie-cutter for this, but the basic idea is to do what is most redemptive for the person in question.*
- B. Brotherly Devotion. 10
 - 1. “Love one another” (ESV) Devoted (NIV, NASB), warm, tender, affectionate, loving, as within a healthy family.
 - 2. Brotherly love = Philadelphia = We cut family a break...
 - 3. Preference in honor = making sure others receive honor rather than you.
 - 4. *This happens to everybody. The question is whether we think it is a good thing when we are not honored and somebody else is.*
- C. Gracious Effort. 11. Spiritual growth is at times hard, like physical therapy.
 - 1. Not slothful (lazy) in Zeal?
 - a) Zeal = giving your best effort with a good attitude. Not necessarily “excited” but determined to excel in service.
 - b) Lazy/slothful = negligent, cynical, just putting in the time.
 - 2. Fervent in Spirit. Letting the Spirit continue to encourage our spirit.
 - a) Fervent = hot, boil. Full commitment, whole-heartedly
 - 3. Serving the Lord. 1 Cor.15:58.
 - a) genuine warmth regarding the Lord and His work.

D. Influential Joy. 12

1. Rejoicing in hope. (coming life and blessing)
 - a) This is completely impossible if we do not look past this life and into the certain future blessing of resurrection.
 - (1) Hope is what causes rejoicing, joy.
 - b) A genuinely positive attitude is a blessing to others.
2. Persevering under pressure.
 - a) Patient = hupomene bearing up over a long time.
 - b) Thlipsis – trouble, hard circumstances, pressure
3. Devoted to prayer (the thing we stop first when extremely frustrated)
 - a) Prayer is the key here. Because we cannot fake “rejoicing in hope” or “persevering under pressure.”
 - b) *Prayer is vital, verbal interaction with the Lord in the invisible realm, with occasionally visible results.*
4. *Cynicism is the enemy of spiritual growth and prayer... Lk.18:1-8*

E. Tangible Generosity. 13. Jas.2:14-17

1. Contributing to those in need.
 - a) *This happens all the time with Christians.*
2. Developing hospitality. “Seeking to show hospitality”
 - a) Pursuing/seeking to show = to pursue, chase down.
 - b) Hospitality = to offer something of your substance to somebody in need outside your immediate family or friends.
3. *Material help is a universal love language. Jas.2:18-*

F. These are the characteristics of Christ. They are what we are becoming. 2 Cor:3:16-18.

VI. How can we cooperate with this move of the Spirit? It starts in the grace-transformed mind. Rom.12:1-

2. Remember these things...

A. It is not our success at virtue that purchases our salvation—it is His.

1. His obedience, sacrifice, virtue has purchased our salvation, not our own.
2. We are growing in these things, but like little kids with loving parents, the growth is not

B. It is not our love for Him that enables us to love—It is His love for us. 1 Jn.4:10-11. Propitiation = the Cross

1. *We do not transform ourselves – He does it as we put ourselves on the altar.*
2. *The Christian life cannot be lived simply by exertion.*
3. *How much love would a person have if they gave their only son to save you? John 3:16*