

Foundations of Church for “Body Life Ministry” – Part 4

God’s Love at the Core

Romans 12:9-21

10/18/2015

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

<http://NLFJI.org/teachings>

Romans 12:9-21

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.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the LORD. (ref.: Deut. 32:35)

²⁰ Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

If he is thirsty, give him a drink;

For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” (ref.: Prov. 25:21-22)

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Questions and Answers:

1. What Paul is explaining here is directly opposite of what?
 - it is directly opposite of our fallen nature’s way of doing things. our old sinful nature is selfish, self-serving, self-centered, etc.
 - it is opposite of the World’s Value System of Pleasing Yourself, First, etc. If sinners love, they do it, typically with an ulterior motive
2. What can this be compared to (**hint**: something Jesus taught on a “mount” in Matthew 5 - 7)?
 - Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount.

How is Romans 12:9-21 similar to Matthew 5 thru 7 [especially Matt. 5:43-48 & 7:1-5]?

- Unselfish Love, even toward enemies. Not condemning people, and being vengeful, bitter, and vindictive. Instead of being Judge, Jury, and Executioner → we are to examine ourselves first (pull the plank out of our own eyes, before trying to help someone else get a splinter out of their eyes, etc.) → these are in regards to personal relationship with real people to people. This is not talking about Nations in relationship to Nations (such as national defense, etc.)
3. What is the Focus here? After talking about the Gifts of the Spirit, why “this stuff”?
 - How are we to treat each other within our local church family?
 - Loving, caring, encouraging, inspiring, **PRAYERFUL**, wanting the best for our fellow brothers and sisters and for each one to excel in their individual walk with Christ, etc.
 - When we rub each other the wrong way, we are to be forgiving, etc. (Eph. 4:31-32)
 - As a Church, toward outsiders: we are to be loving, kind, gently, generous, not vengeful or vindictive, etc. (Romans 12:14,17-21) [14 is focused on outsiders, 17-21 can be both]

Forgiving One Another ...

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NKJV)

³¹Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³²And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.