

"The Doctrine of Consecration"

Part 7

Romans 12:1-15:7

Introduction: Tonight, as we return to Romans, we are looking at the believer's obligation toward others. Last week we looked at the first part of verse 9 which is really the foundation of our obligation toward others.

Notice Romans 12:9a

The word "love" here is "agape" which is the love which God has for each of us. It is an unconditional love, which means it is by choice. God loved us when we were sinners and while we were His enemies. We certainly were not loveable, but God still chose to love us and to demonstrate just how great His love is by sending His Son to the cross to die as our Substitute.

This is the very same kind of love we are to have for our fellowman. Last week we looked at 1 Corinthians 13 where we were able to see the characteristics of agape love.

- **Love suffereth long** - Patient with others.
- **Love is kind.** - Does not seek to retaliate.
- **Love does not envy.** - Does not resent others because of their blessings.
- **Love does not boast.** - Does not boast.
- **Love is not puffed up.** - Does not have an attitude of being superior.
- **Love is not unseemly.** - Is not rude but is very sensitive.
- **Love does not seek her own.** - Is not selfish.
- **Love is not easily provoked.** - Not easily aroused to anger.
- **Love thinketh no evil.** - Keeps no records.
- **Love does not rejoice in iniquity.** - It takes no pleasure in the sins of others.
- **Love beareth all things.** - It covers over and conceals sins and weaknesses instead of broadcasting them.
- **Love believes all things.** - It focuses upon the positives.
- **Love hopes all things.** - It refuses to give up on someone.
- **Love endures all things.** - It works through the deepest darkness and continues to have hope. Love never fails.

This is the love we are to show forth and it is to be without hypocrisy.

Notice Romans 12:9a again.

The word "dissimulation" means without hypocrisy. We do not pretend to love someone and then go away and talk about their faults to others sowing seeds of gossip behind their

backs. We do not pretend to love someone and at the same time be very critical of their every move. We do not pretend to love someone and then retaliate when they somehow offend us.

This now brings us to where we are tonight.

I. The Obligation of Christians Toward Others

Romans 12:9-15:7

Part 2

Notice Romans 12:9

The next two exhortations here are:

1. Abhor that which is evil.

The word "abhor" is a very strong word. It means "to pull back in horror". The word "evil" here refers to that which is "wicked". The point Paul is making is that we are to hate anything that is evil, and we are to pull back from it so as to have nothing to do with it. We as believers are to hate evil.

Psalm 97:10a

¹⁰ *Ye that love the LORD, hate evil:*

Proverbs 8:13

¹³ *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.*

Amos 5:14-15

¹⁴ *Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.*

¹⁵ *Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.*

As believers we are to be known for our LOVE for others, but we should also be known for our HATE of evil.

2. Cleave to the which is good.

We are told to pull back from evil and here we are told to "cleave" to that which is good. The word "cleave" means "to be glued or cemented fast to something". The idea here is that we should be known as people who seek after righteousness and practice

righteousness in our lives. Evil should be forbidden to enter our gates and righteousness should be our daily apparel.

Notice Romans 12:10

Brotherly love comes natural to the believer and is something that should even increase as we grow in our faith.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

⁹ But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

¹⁰ And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

Love for believers is the result of the Holy Spirit living in us.

1 John 3:9-14

⁹ Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

¹⁰ In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

¹¹ For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

¹² Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

¹³ Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

Notice Romans 12:10 again.

The word for "LOVE" here is "philadelphia" and this refers to a brotherly love. So, the idea here is that we are to love our fellow believers as we would love our own family because we are the family of God.

Paul goes further at the end of this verse and instructs us to "prefer one another in honor". This means that we are to see others as being more important than ourselves.

Philippians 2:1-4

If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

² *Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*

³ *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*

⁴ *Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

This character in a believer is sometimes difficult to find because people get so caught up in their own lives that they have no time for the needs of others. We see this as Paul continues with his writing in Philippians.

Philippians 2:19-21

¹⁹ *But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.*

²⁰ *For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*

²¹ *For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.*

Paul then goes on in Philippians 2 to give an example of esteeming others better than ourselves.

Philippians 2:25-30

²⁵ *Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.*

²⁶ *For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.*

²⁷ *For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.*

²⁸ *I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.*

²⁹ *Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:*

³⁰ **Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.**

Notice Romans 12:11

Here is a command to be on fire for the Lord. The word "fervent" comes from a verb that means "to boil". The idea is that everything we do we are to do as unto the Lord.

Colossians 3:22-24

²² *Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God;*

²³ *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*

²⁴ *Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*

Notice Romans 12:11b

The words "serving the Lord" remind us that whatever we do it is a service to our Lord.

Notice Romans 12:12

There are three exhortations here:

1. **Rejoice in hope** - As believers we are to be people of hope and people who are joyful. We have so much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to. The world around us should be able to see the hope that we have within our hearts.

1 Peter 3:15

¹⁵ *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

2. **Patient in tribulation** - This has the idea of not giving up. This is one that we sometimes struggle with. The way we face the trials a positive attitude is so important for it is a major part of our testimony. Let us notice what James told his readers who were being taken advantage of.

James 5:7-8

⁷ Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

⁸ Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

3. Continuing instant in prayer. - This means we are to be steady in our prayer life.

To be persistent in prayer is a labor and it takes self- discipline. Let us notice what Paul wrote to the Thessalonians.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice evermore.

¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.

¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Notice Romans 12:13

We are to be quick to give to those who are in need. We are to be willing to help with any means which we have. It may be time, possessions, talents or finances. Whatever the need if we have something to give, we are to be willing to give it. To be given to hospitality means we are to "pursue" hospitality. We should welcome opportunities to show hospitality to others.

3 John 1:5-8

⁵ Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

⁶ Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

⁷ Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

⁸ We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

Conclusion:

In all of these exhortations we must understand that the Holy Spirit presupposes that we have submitted to Romans 12:1-2.