

Sermon Notes
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January 30, 2011

THE WAY TO A "FULL LIFE"

“Witness: Living My Faith Transparently Before Others”
Romans 12:9-21

- I. THE OPERATION OF LOVE, verses 9-13
 - A. What if “sincere” and genuine love?
 - 1. It “*hates what is evil*”. Greek word, *annupokritos* (hypocritical) means “without a mask”.
 - 2. It “*clings to what is good*”. “*Cling*”, in some forms means “to glue.” I Corinthians 13 defines agape love alluded to here.
 - B. How does sincere and genuine love express itself?
 - 1. It is expressed in how we serve one another.
 - a. “*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love*”.
 - b. “*Honor one another above yourselves*”.
 - 2. It is exposed in how we show our faith in God in good and bad times.
 - a. “*Serve the Lord, “never lacking in zeal”, but keeping “your spiritual fervor”.*
Colossians 3:23,24, “*Whatever you do, do it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as your reward. It is the Lord you are serving*”.
 - b. “*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*”
 - 3. It is exhibited in how we share with the body of Christ.
 - a. “*Share with God’s people who are in need.*”
 - b. “*Practice hospitality.*”

II.

THE OBLIGATION TO OTHERS, verses 14-16

- A. We are to *intercede* for those who oppose us.
- B. We are to identify with those who rejoice and mourn.
- C. We are to invest in living in harmony with others. (see verse 18)
- D. We are to *involve* with others without respect to their Social position.

III.

THE OPPORTUNITIES WITH "ENEMIES", verses 17-21

- A. Resist the temptation to repay evil for evil.
Kalos can be translated "good" or "right". It means good, right, proper, fitting, honorable, honest, fine, even beautiful and precious (Boice).
- B. *Relinquish* vengeance to God.
 1. We work for peace and conflict resolution—reconciliation and restoration when possible.
 2. How are we to practically do this? Note the dimensions delineated here.
 - a. Vengeance is God's business. "it is mine to avenge; I will repay".
 - b. "Give place to wrath"

C. Repay ("overcome") evil with good.

1. We are to do good even to those who do evil to us. What does it mean to "heap burning coals on our enemy's head?"

Doing good to one's enemy is the best means of subduing him or winning him over—"to heap coals of fire on anyone's head is a punishment which on one can bear; he must yield to it. Kindness is no less effectual; the most malignant enemy cannot always withstand it..." (Charles Hodge)
2. In the end, evil is to be overcome by good, not good by evil or evil by evil. I Peter 2:23-25,
"When they hurled their insults at Him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, He made no threats, instead He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wound you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."