

Genuine Love

5-23-21

Romans 12:9 (ESV)

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

We are going to look at the God specific “to do” list. This list specifically applies to relationships within the church body, BUT APPLICATION extends beyond the church body. This list is preached in “every” Church calling itself Christian.

However, most times the messages preached are preached without referring to the related power to accomplish the goal. We at Broadlands Community Church know that accomplishing this list is based on understanding and applying Chapters 1-8. What a wonderful place the church can be.

Romans 8:5 (ESV)

Those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

However, sometimes people don't apply chapters 1-8. People may have a bad day or month or year. **Then it becomes a little harder to be as loving as we should.** Or sometimes we must deal with Chapter 7 Christians, who have no understanding of the Holy Spirit and work completely out of their fallen nature. These people are not only miserable but share their misery and frustrations with everyone. Or sometimes we must deal Chapter 3 Christians, who are saved but act like two-year-olds running around who have not developed any discipline and cause havoc all around them.

Or sometimes we must deal with those who say they are in the kingdom, but if they are only Jesus knows. But God tells us to have genuine love for them. *And We know where the will of God is revealed, the Spirit of God enables us with faith and prayerfulness to achieve all HE commands us.* We also know that apart from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and apart from the renewing of our minds, these commandments are impossible to consistently achieve. Therefore, by embracing Chapters 1-8, we present ourselves with power through the Holy Spirit as living sacrifices. Now we are ready for the list!

Romans 12:10 (ESV)

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

With the power of the Holy Spirit we say, Amen!

Romans 12:11 (ESV)

Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

With the power of the Holy Spirit we say, Amen!

Romans 12:12 (ESV)

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

With the power of the Holy Spirit we say, Amen!

Romans 12:13 (ESV)

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

With the power of the Holy Spirit we say, Amen!

Romans 12:14 (ESV)

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

With the power of the Holy Spirit we say, Amen!

Romans 12:15 (ESV)

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

With the power of the Holy Spirit we say, Amen!

Romans 12:16 (ESV)

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

With the power of the Holy Spirit we say, Amen!

Romans 12:17 (ESV)

Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

With the power of the Holy Spirit we say, Amen!

Romans 12:18 (ESV)

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

With the power of the Holy Spirit we say, Amen! This is a big Amen! God is warning us that when we stand for “good” it may not be possible to live at peace with everyone.

We look at these commands and recognize the difficulty and our need for Holy Spirit wisdom.

Romans 8:14 (ESV)

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

However, with Holy Spirit wisdom, what about those people who are nasty, deceitful, and wicked? God, they deserve punishment, our anger and rebuke. Yet God tells us, “Brother and Sister, you don’t understand, I will take care of you and them.”

Romans 12:19 (ESV)

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave (room for) the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

The verse literally says, “Leave room for the wrath of God!” This goes back to our lesson on the Holy Spirit in Chapter 8. Vacate so God can occupy! This means get out of the ditch.

Now God tells us how to get out of the ditch or how to vacate and let God occupy.

Romans 12:20 (ESV)

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”

This is a great mystery of Christianity! There is power in doing good! When we do good, then God then moves against our enemies with HIS power “in proportion” to our good deeds.

Therefore, dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, in summation when we get out of the ditch by doing good to our enemies, we have power:

Romans 8:21 (ESV)

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

Therefore, dear Brothers and Sisters: Let love be genuine because God loved the world!

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.