

and a godly love of others (Part 2).

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Romans 12:3-21

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Part 2 – <u>CONSIDER</u> others above yourself, and so <u>ACT</u>. Romans 12:3-21 "The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:31

 Love with affection that honors others. Humility considers others interests first. God grants the increase, and produces the work. Be steadfast in your love for God and living out His will.

Rom 12:10; Phil 2:3-4; I Thess 3:12-13; Rev 2:3-5

1. Have a godly love for fellow PRACTICING believers. Vs 3-13

Instructions for our interactions with **FAITHFUL** believers.

- VS 3-5 Think biblically about yourself, without being self-focused. Be focused on Jesus, the head, and the church, the body.
- Vs 6-13 The body functioning rightly when it's "easier".
- Vs 6-8 Use your God-given gifts (faithfully, humbly, clearly, generously, with zel, mercifully, and with joy)
- Vs 9-13 Use your God-given gifts rightly (sincerely, righteously, steadfastly, persevering in glorifying God, and meeting other's needs)
- Love in deed and truth. Love one another, by the Spirit. Love one another, with God's love. Love one another, because God loved us. Loving God, will give you a love for your brother. The church meets fellow needs, with praise to God.

I Jn 3:16-18, 23-24; I Jn 4:7, 11, 20-21; Acts 2:44-47

2. Have godly love for **SELF-PROCLAIMED** believers. Vs 14-16

Instructions for our interactions with professing Christians, that are **NOT PRACTICING**, yielding spiritual fruit. 2 Cor 5:14-21

- Vs 14-16 The body functioning as it should, even when it's "more difficult"
- V14a Have a Christ-like response amidst persecution <u>bless</u>: to invoke divine favor upon. How far is your heart from responding this way rather than in kind? 2 Cor 5:16

- V14b ... therefore, bless them and do not curse them because of their sinful acts of persecution.
- V15a Give thanks to God with those are rejoicing! Help direct praise to God as a reminder to that all good gifts come from above.
- V15b Enter into others sorrow, and so weep with them. Acknowledge, and recognize others reasons for sorrow. Be compassionate towards them.
- V16a Live out your life complementary with each other. Make a
 beautiful noise to the Lord together. Enhance each other's song to the
 Lord.
- V16b Refrain from puffing yourself up, being separated from those in humble circumstances. Rather be amidst them in equal posture and position.
- V16c Don't be prideful, and elevate yourself. Think clearly and correctly (biblically) about yourself (v3). Have a sober, right-spirited, consideration of yourself.

3. Have a godly love for non-Christians, even those who PERSECUTE believers. Vs 17-21

Instructions for our interactions with all those who have <u>YET TO</u> **SURRENDER** to Christ's Lordship.

- Vs 17-21 Loving others when it is "seemingly impossible"
- V17 Payback of evil is dishonoring to God. How did Jesus respond against evil? What response would glorify God, and might bring others to do the same?
- V18 Live at peace with everyone. Exhaust your resources to conduct yourself peaceable with all. Gal 5:22
- V19 Rest in God for His timing, and His just wrath. Was He patient with you in your sinfulness, so that you might come to know Him? Rom 3:23-26; 5:1-11
- V20 Provide for your enemy's needs. Do you know their needs? Is your enemy hungry or thirsty feed and water them. We are not called by God to be vigilantes trying to enforce His justice in the world.
- V21 Dwell on things above, and so act. Let the Lord rule your heart, and be at peace. Overcome the evil amongst you with goodness. Gal 5:22
- Stay true to God's commands. God judges the wicked. Consider your ways, and cry to God for help. Ps 119:110, 119, 121
- Love your enemies. Pray for them. Be perfect. Mt 5:44-48;
- Provide and care for your enemy. Prov 25:21-22