

LOVE is our responsibility under Grace

Romans 12:9-10(NASB) 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil: cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love: give preference to one another in honor;

Sometimes we feel like we are in a fog. When we are surrendered to Christ, the Word of God is renewing our mind, transforming our behavior, we are no longer in the fog. When we start living like we are supposed to live the fog begins to lift. We get to see for our very own self what was there all the time. All of a sudden, we see the church as a body and we see our self as an important functional part of that body. We are spiritually gifted. Now these spiritual gifts are different than talents and abilities. God, being the sovereign God that He is, certainly orchestrates them all together. But we are talking about what the Holy Spirit brings when He comes to live in your life. He gifts you, and the gift that He has given you is to enable the body to grow up into unity and of the faith and to become that picture, that image of Jesus living His life on this earth through the bodies of people that are surrendered to Him.

Paul says in verse 9, *'Let love be without hypocrisy.'*

Really it is *'love without hypocrisy.'* That is the statement. Now, the love the Holy Spirit produces in you and me, when we are surrendered to Him, is a love that must house all the service gifts that we have. Everything we do for one another has to be done out of love. There is no ministry; there is no anything if this love is not there. This love is the signal that we are living under grace; that God truly is working in and through our lives. And this love will be without hypocrisy.

The word "hypocrisy" ([anuopkritos](#)) there means without any pretense, without any dissimulation. In other words, it is not fake. It is pure. It is right. It is God's love being manifested in you and in me.

The whole thought here is relationships in the body of Christ—how we treat one another. We know we are gifted differently and we are going to serve one another through those gifts, but what is it that houses all of that service? What is the house that all those gifts live in? It is this love without hypocrisy.

What is it like? Well, it says in [Ro 12:9](#), "Abhor what is evil."

The word "Abhor" ([apostugeo](#)) means to detest with horror. In other words, you tremble at the thought of.

The word "evil" is the word [poneros](#). There are two words for evil. There is the word **kakos**, and the word **poneros**. This second word is the word that means evil that is injurious to somebody else. It is a relationship word. In other words, when I am filled with the Spirit of God, He is manifesting love which is the fruit of His Spirit, [Galatians 5:22](#);. This love will be without hypocrisy and this love will cause me to tremble and to abhor with horror that which would be injurious to someone else in the body of Christ. I can't even tolerate it.

It is kind of like being in a smoke-filled room if you are allergic to smoking. You begin to suffocate in that room. The very thought that would cross his mind that would cause him to be injurious to somebody else literally suffocates him. He can't stand it because the love of God will not allow it.

At the same time he clings to that which is good. The word "cling" is the word for glue. The love that is being manifested in you glues you to that which is good. And the word "good" is [agathos](#), which is another relationship word. It means that I am glued to the attitude that whatever I do

for you or for whoever out of the gifts that God has given is done for your best benefit, your spiritual help. It is a benevolent word. It is a beautiful word.

Now this is what **love without hypocrisy** does. There is no hypocrisy in it, therefore, it abhors what would hurt somebody intentionally. At the same time, it is glued that which does good for them.

Now, let's focus it in verse 10. Now Paul puts it right into context so that we can understand it. He says in verse 10, **"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love."**

The word **"devoted"** is a beautiful word. The word **"devoted"** there comes from two Greek words. One word is philos, and the other word is storge. Now those two words are gorgeous words. **Philos** means friendly love, loving as a friend. **Storge** is another word for love. It is the word for a Mother to her children, a brother to a sister, a Father to a Mother. It is a family word. Even people without Christ have this. Remember, Paul told Timothy in the last days people will be unloving. The word is **astorgos**. It comes from **"a"**, without, and **storge**, this kind of family love. Do you wonder where abortion comes from, folks? God's Word has already told us it is going to be that way. Women will not even love their own children. This is what the word means. He says, **"Be devoted to one another."** Then he says, "with brotherly love" (**philadelphia**). We have a city here in PA, called Philadelphia. It is supposed to be the "City of Brotherly Love." That is what the word means.

Now here is what Paul is saying. I believe it just simplifies the whole matter. He is saying that we begin to see the body of Christ like we have never seen it before. We begin to see the congregation that we are a part of as never before. We begin to realize we are all a part of the spiritual, eternal family of God. All of a sudden I see you as my brother and my sister in Christ. You see me as your brother in Christ. And all of a sudden the congregation is not just a group of people who come to hear a message, but the congregation, even the church world-wide, becomes your brother and your sister in Christ. Whether they are black or white or whether they speak English or another language doesn't matter. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. Folks, listen to me. When we get to heaven, there are not going to be buildings like we have built down here. Now certainly God will have some things built, but we are not talking programs, buildings or denominations. It is just going to be people. That is going to be your family in heaven with you forever. Automatically it begins to change the way you start treating one another. The fog has lifted. I have a family that is world-wide.

Oh, how overnight this would cure some people who say, "Well, I had a bad family growing up." Well, friend, if you are born again, you are in the greatest family you could ever be in. We have a Lord Jesus who died for us on the cross and we are going to live with God forever. We have every spiritual blessing God could have ever given in Christ Jesus and we are a part of the family of God. We can't see this unless we are living a surrendered life. We can't understand the wealth and the meaning of this unless we are letting our minds be renewed by the Word of God. Our character has to be transformed by the Holy Spirit of God. Then the fog lifts. Then we see the family for what it is.

Look over in 1 John. I want to show you something about this family. In the family of God, world-wide and locally, you are going to have different degrees of maturity. We have already learned how this family has different gifts. It is going to look different and act different, but it is also going to have different degrees of maturity. Look at **1John 2:13**.

"I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning."

These fathers are the older, mature ones who have walked with God for a long period of time. He continues, "I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one." These are the ones in the prime of their life. They have learned to obey God and not their flesh. They are walking in victory. These are the younger men. Then he says,

"I have written to you, children, because you know the Father"

The word for children there is *paidion* a child who needs help and nurture and discipleship. There are a lot of people like that in the family of God. Of course, we can continue to read Romans and some other books and find out that there are even some who are so immature they don't even want to be right with God. We have all kinds of degrees of maturity.

We have that kind of situation in the family of God. We begin to recognize this. The Holy Spirit of God prompts us to love the people in the family, even if they are less or more mature than we are and are gifted differently. We begin to love and serve one another in that respect. We are a family. We are the family of God. And we cannot see it until we are living with the fog lifted, surrendered to Christ, the mind of God, renewing our mind, transforming our character. I want to show you what living in this family is all about, what this love without hypocrisy is all about. Let's look at it and look at these participles as they come in to help us explain and help us understand what is going on.

First of all, there is the urgency of showing this kind of love. In verse 10 after saying, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love," he says,

"Give preference to one another in honor"

The word "give preference" it comes from two Greek words. One means before, *pro*, then the word *hegeomai* means to take the lead.

Do you mean to tell me that in the family of God where there are different gifts and different levels of maturity that I am to take the lead in serving and loving others? I don't wait for them to love me or to serve me? That is exactly right. It is the Spirit of God in you. Now this is not your pastor making you do this. This is the Spirit of God in you leading you and motivating you to take the lead. Don't wait on somebody to come to you. You go to them.

Oh, how this could prevent people who say, "Nobody loves me in the church. Nobody has been kind to me. Why, I went to that church and nobody spoke to me." Folks, do we understand what Paul is saying? If we are filled with the Spirit of God, we are not worried about who does or doesn't speak to you. What we should be concerned with is who we can speak to. Who can I love? Who can I serve? That is the whole thought here. Take the lead in showing love to others.

That is exactly what the Apostle Paul is saying right here in Romans 12. You see, we have to go back to verse 1. When we present our body a living sacrifice, then whatever agenda we had is dead under the blood at the cross and now it is His agenda and now we take the lead in it. Who is it that I can show love to today? Who is it that I can serve today? Oh, folks, if we could just see this. This is where the joy comes in our life. This is the thrill of walking with God, when we take the lead in loving others in the body of Christ.

Well, Paul goes on in that verse and says,

"Give preference to one another in honor"

The word "honor" there is the word *time*. It is the word that means to put them higher than yourself.

The Apostle Paul says almost the same thing in **Philippians 2:3**.

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself."

Now he doesn't say, don't look out for your own personal interest, he says,

"Do not merely look out for your own personal interest but also for the interest of others."

When we are living surrendered lives, we are actually looking for people who we can love and serve every day of our life. The very moment that those words, "But nobody loves me," are

framed in our mouth, the Holy Spirit of God just shuts that down and gives us that renewed attitude to go love somebody else. We go serve somebody else. We have been loved, We have been served by God. Now let this love in us be transferred to somebody else. Take the lead in loving other people.