

Romans

Lesson 16: Romans 12:9–21

Discussions about spiritual gifts, while given for the edification of the body of Christ, have also resulted in disunity within the church. To the detriment of the church, believers quarrel and fight over the use of spiritual gifts among one another. The reason for this is because there is a lack of selfless, sacrificial love in these churches. After telling us about spiritual gifts in Romans 12:3–8, Paul urges believers in the church to live a life of sacrificial love in verses 9–21. This means believers are to live in unity as they share life together. It means believers are to be like-minded and forgive when they are wronged. It means believers in the church must walk in the Spirit, so they won't fulfill the desires of the flesh. In this passage, Paul gives some twenty-five exhortations related to living a sacrificial life of love toward believers and unbelievers. Let's dive in and see what this sacrificial love looks like.

➤ **Read Romans 12:9–16**

1. In verse 9, what three exhortations does Paul give?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

2. In verse 9, what does “love without hypocrisy” look like?

Application: Many Christians emphasize loving others over hating evil. Why are both equally important for the believer?

3. In verse 10, what two commands does Paul give?

1. _____
2. _____

Application: What are ways Christians can show devotion to one another?

4. In verse 11, what three commands does Paul give?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

5. In verse 12, what three exhortations does Paul give?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

6. Look at the exhortations above. What do these tell you about the Christian life? (see Acts 14:22)

7. In verse 13, what two commands does Paul give?

1. _____

2. _____

8. In verse 14, what command does Paul give? Why is this hard to do?

9. Look at verses 12 and 14, what do these verses tell you about the Christians in Rome?

Application: What are some ways a Christian can “bless those who persecute” them?

10. In verse 15, what two commands does Paul give?

1. _____
2. _____

11. In verse 16, what four exhortations are given?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Application: Read James 2:1-7. How do the previous exhortations relate to these verses? How can you guard your heart against the sin of partiality?

➤ **Read Romans 12:17–21**

12. In verse 17, what two exhortations does Paul give?

1. _____
2. _____

13. In verse 18, what exhortation does Paul give? Who are “all men”?

14. In verse 19, what exhortation does Paul give?

Application: How does obedience to the exhortation of verse 19 show trust in God? What happens when you don’t trust God in these situations?

15. According to verse 20, how are believers supposed to treat their enemies?

Application: Why is it so difficult to love your enemies? What are some ways you can cultivate love for your enemies in your heart?

16. According to verse 21, how can a person overcome evil?

Application: Have you ever been in a situation where you have overcome evil with good? What were the results?

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.