

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

Romans 12:9-13 – Christian Fellowship

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

Romans 12:9-13

⁹ Let love be genuine.

Abhor what is evil;
hold fast to what is good.

¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection.
Outdo one another in showing honor.

¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal,
be fervent in spirit,
serve the Lord.

¹² Rejoice in hope,
be patient in tribulation,
be constant in prayer.

¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints
and seek to show hospitality.

1. What is the *first thing* that comes to mind when you hear the words “Christian fellowship”?

2. In your Bible, read Romans 12:1-13. (The sermon will focus on verses 9-13, but the lead-in in the preceding paragraphs is helpful to understanding this paragraph.) Fill in the blanks with the verses that match the categories.
 - a. General instruction: _____
 - b. Instructions to individuals: _____
 - c. Instructions for the Christian family with each other: _____
 - d. Instructions for the Christian family with outsiders: verses 14-21

3. Looking at the paragraph diagram of verses 9-13, which phrase serves as a heading for the rest?

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4. In the Greek, the verbs from 9b through the end of the paragraph are participles (normally expressed with '-ing' in English). The way Paul uses them gives them the force of commands, which is why they are translated as commands. How does mentally adding '-ing' to each verb in 9b-13 affect your understanding of the paragraph?
5. Does Paul think that love is a sentimental emotion or a commitment resulting in positive actions? Explain.
6. The word 'genuine' (sometimes translated 'sincere') in verse 9 means 'without hypocrisy'. What words does Paul use it to modify in 2 Corinthians 6:6, 1 Timothy 1:5, and 2 Timothy 1:5?
7. If we know that faith without works is dead, and Paul connects faith and love together so often, what might that say about his concept of love?

❖ Day 2

Read Romans 12:9-13 again.

8. The word translated 'hold fast' in verse 9 is the same word used in 1 Corinthians 6:16 of a man 'joined' to a prostitute. How closely are we to "hold fast to what is good"?
9. The KJV and NKJV translate 'love one another' in verse 10 as 'be kindly affectionate'. They do not mean 'with kindness' (niceness); they mean 'related to kin' (family). Where else do you see family language in this passage?

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10. “Outdo one another in showing honor” has more to do with time than degree, meaning to take initiative in showing honor to someone rather than one-upping in response to them honoring you. What might this look like in your daily life? Who can you honor today and how?

11. Look at how the word translated ‘zeal’ in verse 11 is also used in John 2:17. The word translated ‘fervent’ in verse 11 has the Greek root meaning ‘to well up’ like a bubbling spring. How do these additional images help you to understand this verse? How would you describe it to a 5-year-old?

12. According to verse 11c, what are we to use our zeal and fervor to do?

13. “Rejoice in hope” in verse 12 could be read two ways. Either hope characterizes the rejoicing (rejoicing with hope/confidence), or hope is the cause and ground for rejoicing (rejoicing because of hope). Read how Paul writes about hope in Romans 5:2.
 - a. Which way do you think Paul intends here? (Note that “both” is not a good answer here; the grammar in Greek will not support one of the two possible English readings.)

 - b. Which way focuses on God and not man?

14. In verse 12b, Paul says to “be patient in tribulation.” Look at how Paul writes about tribulation in Romans 5:3-4. How should remembering that God has a good purpose for our suffering help you be patient?

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15. How do you actively and intentionally remind yourself of the truth that God has a good purpose for our suffering?

❖ Day 3

Read Romans 12:9-13 again.

16. Verse 12c says to “be constant in prayer.” Think back on Pastor Bret’s sermon on Prayer on January 14th, and write down one point from his sermon that impacted you.
17. Verse 13 gives concrete actions to express love to other members of the body. When and how does Summit Woods specifically “contribute to the needs of the saints”?
18. “Show[ing] hospitality” is Paul’s concluding expression of love in the church family. What does hospitality look like for us in the 21st century here in the United States? How can you be hospitable?
19. Look back at your answer to Question 1. How has the study of this passage this week impacted the things that should *quickly* come to mind when we think about Christian fellowship?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we will genuinely, actively, and comprehensively love one another in our Summit Woods church family well to the glory of God.