

A Better Servant of The Lord

Romans 12:9-11, "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; In honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;..."

The twelfth chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans begins with Paul, by the mercies of God, exhorting the reader to offer themselves a living sacrifice unto God. Paul is beseeching the reader to give themselves as a continual offering of service to the Lord. The question that I often hear from Bible students is, 'How do I do this?' The answer is found in this chapter as well as other places in God's Holy Word. If we, the children of God, are to offer ourselves a living sacrifice, it will require us to give more to His service and less time thinking about ourselves. Paul, in verses 9-11, gives us at least three ways we can give more to the Lord's service, which are:

(1) Love one another with a brotherly love and not with dissimulation (Romans 12:9). The word dissimulation means to be an actor who is just pretending; one who is trying to show themselves to be something that they are not. The same word is used in Galatians 2:13 when Paul confronts Peter for acting like he would not be a man who would sit and eat with the Gentiles. Paul, in Romans 12:9, is teaching us to labor in a sincere, unfeigned love toward one another. Paul's desire was that the congregation at Rome, as well as all other disciples of Jesus Christ, would show love toward one another in kindness and at the same time abhor those things that would hinder them from showing that love.

(2) Preferring one another (Romans 12:10). When the Apostle stresses the importance of putting another above yourself, it is part of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. The Lord, in His personal ministry, had taught the 12 Apostles this over and over. In Luke 22:25-27, on the very night that Jesus was betrayed, He taught the disciples saying, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth."

(3) Serve one another (Romans 12:11, "serving the Lord"). I know that many read this and say, 'doesn't that read "serve the Lord"? How does that mean serve one another?' Brothers and Sisters, the simple fact is, there is nothing that we can give God. He owns it all! He owns all the cattle of a thousand hills (Ps 50:10), all the stars, the sun (Matt 5:45, "his sun"), and the moon. The way we serve the Lord is: by serving the Lord's people, by being a good example of godliness, living by faith and trusting in the Lord, distributing to others needs, and bearing one another's burdens (Gal 6:2). In Hebrews 6:10 we read, "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

I pray that every child of grace would receive this instruction from the Apostle, and be a better servant of God, by serving their brother and sister in this world. Amen !

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