

THE TRANSFORMED MIND LOVES **(Romans 12:9-21)**

We show love with our...

I. Manner of life (vs. 9-13).

- A. The way we live with others and love them while we have opportunity must never be insincere.
 - 1. This is the meaning of the word dissimulation.
 - 2. We can't be fake about loving others and fakeness always ends up showing.
- B. Love will cause us to hate evil and tightly cling to those things that are profitable for us.
 - 1. We don't want those around us to be influenced negatively by what we like or have in our lives.
 - 2. Therefore, we hate all evil and hold tightly to those things that are profitable.
 - 3. The idea is spiritually profitable.
 - a. Whatever is morally good we will hold to in order to be a good influence.
 - b. This is in the interest of saving the souls of people we influence.
- C. Our sacrificial love will cause us to have brotherly love for our fellow Christians.
 - 1. There ought to be a family atmosphere in the Lord's church.
 - 2. We are brothers and sisters and need to treat one another in that way.
 - 3. We do this by treating one another with dignity and leading one another towards heaven.
- D. Loving others will cause us to work diligently in the Lord's business, giving effort for Christ.
- E. This will allow us to rejoice because we have hope, endure the tribulations that come our way and be prayerful.
- F. We will give to our brethren and look out for their needs through hospitality.

II. Message to others (vs. 14-15).

- A. When dealing with our brethren and worldly people, our message to them is not one of hate or violence or revenge.
- B. Instead we seek to be a blessing in their lives.
 - 1. To curse someone means to desire calamity in their lives.
 - 2. Rather, we are to seek that person's highest good through love.
 - 3. To be a blessing to someone is to help them towards heaven.
- C. We know people have low moments and high moments in life.
 - 1. We ought to have and show empathy to people in these moments.
 - 2. Sadly, we often rejoice when bad happens to people and get upset when good things happen to them.

3. We can't have that mindset if our minds have been transformed.
- D. Love causes us to hurt with the hurting and be joyful with the joyous and this message allows us to influence people for good.

III. **Mind of unity (vs. 16-17).**

- A. It is easy to fall into the trap of believing we know what is best in every situation.
 1. This has happened in many congregations and turmoil has come out of those type situations.
 2. We are to put ourselves into the thoughts and feelings of others.
 3. How would we feel or what would we want if the roles were reversed.
- B. We are not to be seeking out the high and privileged to keep company with.
 1. Titles and honors should mean nothing to us.
 2. Our attitude towards others should be the same if they are well educated or never completed high school.
- C. The Lord's church is made up of many different types of people and we should treat them all the same: with love seeking to serve and help them.
- D. We must never act as if we are better than others.
 1. Love will not allow this.
 2. Love causes us to see the good in others and remember our own sinfulness.
- E. Instead of getting back at brethren who have wronged us, we will follow the Golden Rule when dealing with them.
- F. In his commentary, R.L. Whiteside wrote: "Spite work is of the devil. Even men of the world look at retaliation as beneath the dignity of a gentleman and therefore not honorable."
- G. All we do is compound problems when we react in an unloving manner.
 1. We give fuel to the one who mistreated us in the first place.
 2. We cause ourselves to look like him in the eyes of others.
- H. Has there ever been a brother or sister in Christ with whom you could just not get along no matter what you tried?
 1. There are those who claim to be Christians who are this way.
 2. Nothing pleases them and no matter how hard you try to get along with them it always goes sideways on you.
- I. Because of brethren like that, I've always been thankful for verse 18.
 1. There are some who simply will not allow you to live peacefully.
 2. You do the best you can and then avoid them the best you can.
- J. The lack of peace should always be on the part of the other party and not us.

IV. **Meekness towards others (19-21).**

- A. Paul then wanted to draw special attention to what he was about to write so he used the phrase "dearly beloved."
- B. What he wanted their attention on was the fact that love never allows for

revenge.

1. Revenge only comes from anger and wrath.
 2. It has no place in the life of one who claims to love others.
- C. Revenge seeks to get back at one who has wronged us.
- D. That is never our responsibility, only God's.
- E. Paul quoted Deuteronomy 32:35 to instill in our minds that God will see to it that vengeance is meted out.
1. There are different ways that God does this.
 2. Sometimes it is through civil government.
 3. Sometimes it is through simply through our good living in the face of their sinfulness.
 4. Many times it will not even take place in this life but will be handled at the judgment.
- F. Love calls us to render good for evil.
1. We look after the needs of those who call us enemies.
 2. This was the action of Christ against those who sought and took His life.
- G. It will cause them to be remorseful at some point.
1. It may even lead to their repentance and friendship.
 2. No matter what it leads to at the time, it is commanded by God.
- H. Whenever we fail to love, we are overcome with evil.
1. We fall prey to evil and will lose our souls if we remain in that sin.
 2. Love leads to overcoming evil not being overcome by it.
- I. The person may remain an enemy but we will keep our souls.