

Romans 12:9-16
“Inside & Outside”

~ INTRO. ~

THE BIG IDEA...

- In these verses is: Live like a Christian.

CHRISTIANITY **IS** A WAY OF LIVING...

- **Not** just a way of believing.
 - It's learning to submit to God...
 - AND learning to submit to each other.
- It's important to understand...
 - What God has said about living out our faith.

~ STUDY ~

IN THIS SECTION...

- Paul teaches the church how to live like Christian's:
 - a) Toward people INSIDE the family of faith (vv.9-16)
 - b) Toward people OUTSIDE the family of faith (vv.17-21)

THIS CHAPTER FLOWS...

- From the **GIFTS** of the Spirit...
 - Into the **FRUIT** of the Spirit.

#1 – LIFE INSIDE THE FAMILY OF FAITH

(v.9)... Is broken down into **three sentences**...

- Which gives an overview of the following verses:
 - 1) *Let love be without hypocrisy.*
 - 2) *Abhor what is evil.*
 - 3) *Cling to what is good.*

IN THE HEBREW CULTURE...

- Knowledge **had to** translate into behavior.
 - Today we say, “Actions speak louder than words”
- Unfortunately, many Christians are known as *hypocrites*.

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DISCOVERING... *Life Inside the Family of Faith* is important!

- God's Spirit produces **evidence** of His presence.
 - (Gal. 5:22-26) NLT

Cont. (v.9)

Love = Affection / good-will / brotherly kindness.

Without Hypocrisy =

- (Negative) Play-acting, impostor, fraudulent.
- (Positive) Sincere, authentic, genuine, effortless, natural.

Abhor = *A-pos-tu-gay-o* = To have an intense felling of dislike & disgust...

- Which encourages us to separate from things not approved by God.

HERE'S THE POINT:

- It's a contradiction for a Christian to live in opposition...
 - To the word of God.

PEOPLE THAT NAME THE NAME OF CHRIST...

- Are to turn away from the old life...
 - Lying / stealing / intoxicants / living together unmarried /
 - Foul mouth / porn / sexual deviance / gambling /
 - Dating or marrying unbelievers / etc.
- These are practices & habits of an unsaved life.
 - God wants us to **live out** evidence of a new life.

OUR LOGICAL RESPONSE (v.1)...

- Is learning to walk with God – to trust & obey Him.

THE CHURCH GATHERS WEEKLY...

- For three reasons:
 - 1) To worship God.
 - 2) To be equipped to follow God.
 - 3) To be encouraged to live out our faith in God.

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HOWEVER... A TRAP OF SATAN...

- Is to cripple **believers** by *deceiving them*.
 - He tricks people into thinking obedience is OPTIONAL...
 - Connection is NOT NEEDED...
 - And involvement happens when I FEEL like it.

PAUL IS TEACHING that *Life inside the family of faith*...

- Requires us to get rid of non-biblical thinking...
 - (i.e. cultural perspectives that contradict Biblical faith).

HERE'S THE DIRECTION...

- (v.9) *Cling* = The idea is being glued to good things.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS?

NEXT...

- Comes the adjustment of *attitudes & actions*.

(v.10) starts with our attitude:

- This is a command for Christians...
 - Don't be cold BY having a stand-offish attitude.
- Rather... put on genuine affection.
 - It means treating fellow believers as your **own family**.
- It implies *love* is to be aimed at each other **actively**.
 - Literally **warm, tender, & loyal devotion** (*attitudes*).

(vv.11-16) Actions:

ON TOP OF THE RIGHT *attitudes*... actions are called out.

- (v.11a) “*fervent*” = Literally, boiling over with enthusiasm.
 - It's a fruit of God's Spirit.
- (v.12) *rejoicing / patient / unwavering* = all actions.

(v.14)

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PAUL DRAWS FROM JESUS – (Matt. 5:43-44) NKJV

- And applies it to *Life Inside the Family of Faith*.
 - He’s already covered *love*...
 - So he starts with *bless* (Matt. 5:44).

GREEK – “Bless” = *Eu-log-gay-o*.

- We get our English word **eulogize** from it.
 - Meaning to invoke a blessing upon a person.

THIS IS... *Life Inside the Family of Faith* = *blessing others*.

FINALLY... (vv.15-16)

(v.15) *Rejoice*...

- It’s only thru humility we can *rejoice* without envy or jealousy.

OUR NATURAL TENDENCY...

- Is to be *jealous* when others rejoice...
 - And *pass by* when others are going thru a tough time.
 - (I’m not going to get involved).

THE POINT IS:

- Be sensitivity to meet people where they’re at.

(v.16) “*Be of the same mind towards one another.*”

- This is NOT uniformity of mind...
 - But **harmony of relationship**.

HOW?

- By NOT focusing on **high-things**...that stir up pride.
 - Which is linked to...
 - *Becoming wise in your own opinion* (v.16 b)
 - This drags believers away from Christ...
 - And into a self-focus.

~ IN CLOSING ~

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SOME PEOPLE...

- Go to church with no intention of changing.
 - They show up to satisfy a religious motivation... (guilt)...
 - AND are never conformed to Jesus.

IF YOU’VE DRIFTED FROM *Living like a Christian...*

- Would you consider a fresh start this morning...
 - By calling on God’s grace?