

Particulars of the Christian Life
(15-11) Romans 12:9-21

I. Relations with the members of X's body (9-13).

- A. Love without hypocrisy.
 - 1. Seeking the best for the other person.
 - 2. Hypocrisy is the antithesis of love (Lk.22:48).
- B. Abhor evil (repudiate) -- cling to the good.
 - 1. A demand for complete separation.
(not slathering the world's vomit over our bodies)
(not bondoing over a newspaper backing)
 - 2. "Abhor" and "cling" are strong terms.
- C. Prefer the other person above oneself.
 - 1. Be the first to praise another.
 - 2. Be humble about what God has given you.
- D. Attitudes.
 - 1. In service.
 - a. Not lacking zeal (not slothful) (cf. Gal.6:9).
 - b. Being fervent in the work.
 - c. Serving the Lord.
 - 2. In life.
 - a. Joyful in hope -- the Lord is coming.
 - b. Stedfast when persecuted.
 - i. Opposition is promised the Xn (2 Tim.3).
 - ii. Opposition usu. shows we are doing the right thing.
 - c. Faithful in prayer -- never ceasing.
 - d. Sharing with the needy in X.
 - e. Opening our homes in hospitality.

II. Relations with those both in and out of the body of X (14-16).

- A. Reaction to persecution (unjust and unreasonable behavior).
 - 1. Not just passive acceptance.
 - 2. Call a blessing on such a one.
 - 3. Not mixed with cursing.
- B. Identify with others.
 - 1. Rejoice with others' joyful experiences.
 - a. Not jealous.
 - b. Be as glad as if it had happened to us.
 - 2. Weep with those who weep.
 - a. Share in the sorrows of others (Prov.25:20).
 - b. Never rejoice at another's sorrow (Prov.17:5).
 - 3. Harmonious relations with others.
- C. Not grasping after authority and honor.
 - 1. Persons and work which are lowly are X-like.
 - 2. Conceit is empty vanity. (Prov.26:12).

III. Relations with those outside X's body (17-21).

- A. Do not retaliate when harmed.
 - 1. Not taking the law into our own hands.
 - 2. Leave it to the proper authorities (13:1).
- B. Have a good reputation among the unbelievers.
 - 1. They know what is right.
 - 2. We must not bring reproach on X and the church.
- C. Be at peace with all.
 - 1. If possible.
 - a. This reservation is not subjective.
 - b. We must always oppose what is wrong.
 - 2. As much as it lies in us.
 - a. We are never to initiate discord.
 - b. We are not to be responsible for discord through spiritual shortcomings.
- D. Not to plan vengeance.
 - 1. This usurps God's authority.
 - 2. Let God deal with the situation.
 - 3. We are to overwhelm our enemies with kindness.
- E. We are to be overcomers.