

Romans 12: Living the Resurrected Life

Be Devoted To One Another in Brotherly Love - Romans 12:10

Introduction

- Deep inside every true Christ follower is hunger for something more. When we remove the distractions of this world and begin to focus on what truly matters, there is a burning desire for the deeper things of God and life.
- That burn is the desire for the resurrected lifestyle - the fullness of God - to know God and walk in this life as Jesus did. God purchased it for every one with Jesus' blood and He expects us to experience it and walk in it. (Ephesians 3:19, 4:13)
- This passage in Romans 12 puts flesh on the resurrected lifestyle. It clearly lays out practical instructions on how to live like Christ in the world today. Let's kindle the burning flame for the more of God - the resurrected life! Holy Spirit please teach us!

Be Devoted To One Another In Brotherly Love

- The phrase "be devoted" is translated from a Greek word that literally means, "cherishing one's family, especially parents or children; to be fond of natural relatives; be fraternal [of or relating to brothers] towards fellow Christians." (Strong's Concordance, Merriam-Webster Dictionary)
- So basically, the command is to love our family (the church) with a family kind of love.
- Many of us did not grow up in families that modeled Christlike love for each other. Therefore, a lot of the church today doesn't know how to love each other as a family which results in hurt, disunity, and ineffectiveness.
- Spirit please teach us how to have a Biblical family love for each other...

1. Know The Father's Kind of Love

- **"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners,**
Christ died for us." Romans 5:8
- Unconditional and sacrificial love does not have an earthly source - it is super-natural. God has commanded us to love the family of God with His kind of love; but He has not withheld it from us. He has invited each of us to

personally experience and know His unconditional and sacrificial love.

- Have you personally received the gift of God's super-natural love? This is where it begins. It is impossible to consistently love others with a Christ-like love without first receiving it for yourself.
- His love is so wonderful! It produces hope, security, freedom and peace. Would you please surrender to it today? Will you be at peace with God today?

2. Recognize and Honor Their Gifts

- Let's read 1 Corinthians 12:4-20.
- If we are truly devoted to one another then we will desire to see others reach their full potential in Christ. Part of that maturing process is recognizing the gifts God has placed in each of us for the good of the Body of Christ.
- The pattern of the world is to squelch the gifts of others so that our gifts stand out and we are exalted and needed.
- The kingdom of God is exactly the opposite. We humble ourselves and spiritually perceive the gifts of others. Then we recognize their gifts and work to encourage, affirm, and build them up in the gifts that God has given them.
- It begins with your spouse, family, and close Christian friends. Do you know their spiritual gifts? How are you honoring and encouraging them right now?

3. Help Them in Their Weaknesses

- "We who are strong ought to bear [to lift, to carry, to endure] with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up." Romans 15:1-2 (Strong's)
- The plan of God is to give each person spiritual gifts so they can mature and be a blessing to Him and the church. The plan of satan is capitalize on each one's weakness so he can tear them down, destroy them and the church.
- Unfortunately, too often, we join in with satan to pick out the weaknesses of others, refuse to let it go, refuse to see the gifts in them, and hurt both them and the overall purpose and health of the church.
- Let's become a church that honors the gifts in each other and also sees the weaknesses. Then let's help them overcome the weaknesses with love and true discipleship. Who do you need to help "carry" their weakness this week?

4. Forgive Their Offenses

- "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13

- Part of being a family is dealing with conflict and offense. Every family has moments of stress, strife, and injury. Being devoted to one another means that we refuse to let the root of bitterness grow to destroy the church.
- It is the responsibility of each person to develop the unoffendable lifestyle that Jesus demonstrated and modeled. There is just no way to not have conflict and offense in the church. But not only can we not be destroyed by it; we can be victorious and use the conflicts to grow deeper with Christ and with each other.
- Is there any offense you need to forgive today? Are you allowing the root of bitterness to cause trouble and damage the family of God? (Hebrews 12:15)

5. Refuse to Slander Them

- “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.” Ephesians 4:29-31
- One of the most effective ways to kill a root of bitterness in your own heart and within the church; is to refuse to slander. Words are extremely powerful in God’s kingdom. He used words to create the universe and it was “good.”
- In the same way, God wants us to use our words to build up and create great things for His children and His kingdom. When we use our words to tear down, we have aligned ourselves with our enemy and there will be consequences. It’s difficult to break free from the chains of slander, but when we do, we will find peace, unity, and great freedom. Do you need to repent of slander today?

6. Hurt When They Hurt

- “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another.” Romans 12:15-16a
- An important part of learning how to have a Biblical family love for each other is to learn how to genuinely hurt and grieve with one another.
- Jesus wept with Lazarus’ family and he was “moved with compassion” by the needs and hurts of others. We are to be compassionate like Christ.
- Grieving with another person in their dark moments takes time, effort, and selflessness. It is rarely convenient or comfortable. But true devotion and relationships are formed in the forge of hardship and mourning. This is where we met Jesus - we were hopeless and lost so he met us in the hopelessness of

the cross so that we may know light and life.

- Will you stop, lay down your busyness, and hurt with the hurting?

7. Celebrate Their Victories

- “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another.” Romans 12:15-16a
- God is doing so many great things in the lives of the people in this church and in our community. However, our tendency is to focus on the next problem to be fixed or solved. But devotion to one another means that we stop and take the time to celebrate big and small victories with each other.
- Our lives can become so busy and self-centered that we never enjoy the beauty and glory of God as He miraculously works in the lives of others.
- It requires discipline and sacrifice to genuinely celebrate with others but it is essential in enjoying the life God has given us as a family.
- Do you need to slow down? Who do you need to celebrate with right now?

Final Thoughts

- Maybe you’ve never experienced anyone being truly devoted to you in genuine love. God wants to do that for you today. If you give yourself to Him, He will never leave you and He will always help you. Will you receive His love?
- Is the Lord leading you to begin to recognize the gifts of others and get involved in affirming and developing those? Be obedient, commit to it now.
- Are you convicted about hammering on the weaknesses of others? Is God calling you to come along side those people and help them overcome?
- Do you need to repent from slander and bitterness? Are you willing to forgive others’ offenses so that Christ can forgive yours today?
- Will you commit to God to slow down, look around at others’ lives, and grieve or celebrate with them? What is the Spirit leading you to do right now? Say yes - you'll never regret it!