

THE SPIRIT-CONTROLLED LIFE – PART 2

--ROMANS 12:9-13--

INTRODUCTION:

If a person has been justified by faith in Jesus Christ and has presented his body as a living and holy sacrifice and is exercising the gift that God has given him, he will give evidence that he is truly saved by an out-pouring of sanctified, spiritual living. In other words, as we submit and surrender all that we are, physical, emotional, social, intellectual, moral, and spiritual, to God's will and control, for God's glory, our lives will become the disciplined, Spirit-controlled lives that we were meant to live. This type of living cannot be produced by our own power but is directed and empowered by the Spirit of God, in other words, this is supernatural living.

Last Sunday, we began going through Paul's list of what should be the basic characteristics of the Spirit-controlled Christian who is disciplined and obedient to the Lord. These characteristics can be divided into 4 categories, our present passage covers two of these categories, first, personal duties or characteristics, and second our duties toward our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Verses 14-21 are the last two categories, which are our duties towards people in general and then towards those who have declared themselves as our personal enemies. We went over those duties or characteristics that are personal, this morning we will cover those duties we are to have towards our brothers and sisters in Christ.

II. DUTIES OF A SPIRIT-CONTROLLED LIFE – FAMILY

(Romans 12:10-13)

- a. These are duties that we are to carry out toward our _____, our spiritual family, our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.
- b. Paul will list for us _____ characteristics that we should be displaying towards the members of God's family.

IIa. Be devoted in brotherly love (Romans 12:10a)

- a. Paul begins this category by exhorting us to “Be _____ to one another in brotherly love...” (Romans 12:10a, NASB95)

- b. Jesus said that this devoted brotherly love would show the world that we _____ to Christ. (John 13:35; 1 John 5:1; 4:20)
- c. Paul can exhort us to love our brothers and sisters this way because this brotherly _____ reflects the nature of Spirit-controlled believer. (1 Thessalonians 4:9)
- d. The apostle John speaks extensively in his first epistle about _____ for God, God's love for us, and our _____ for one another. (1 John 2:9-11; 3:10; 3:17-19)

IIb. Show honor to one another (Romans 12:10b)

- a. Paul follows his exhortation to love one another with a characteristic that should flow naturally out of brotherly love, he writes, “...give preference to one another in _____.” (Romans 12:10b, NASB95) (Romans 12:3; Philippians 2:3)
- b. _____ and empty conceit are not the by-products of love.

IIc. Be zealous in service (Romans 12:11a)

- a. Paul continues on in the next verse with his next exhortation, he writes, “...not lagging behind in _____...” (Romans 12:11a, NASB95) (Ephesians 5:5-9; John 9:4)
- b. We must have this same _____ knowing that our time on this earth is short in comparison with eternity and all that we do should be done with zeal and diligence as unto the Lord and to bring Him glory. (Ephesians 5:15-16; Hebrews 6:10-12)

IId. Be fervent in spirit (Romans 12:11b)

- a. Next Paul exhorts the Spirit-controlled, disciplined, and obedient person to be, “_____ in spirit.” (Romans 12:11b, NASB95)
- b. Think of the things that could get done if we each _____ with fervency of spirit. (Galatians 6:9)

IIe. Serving the Lord (Romans 12:11c)

- a. Paul ends this verse by stating simply for what purpose you need this diligence and fervency, he writes that we are to be, “... _____ *the Lord.*” (Romans 12:11c, NASB95)
- b. The word translated “serving” here comes from the word that means “_____ or bonds slave.”
- c. When we speak of serving the Lord we must understand and always remember that we do not and cannot serve Him in our own _____. (Colossians 1:28-29)

CONCLUSION:

These are some heavy commands that Paul lays upon us, and notice I say commands, they are not suggestions. If you want to live a Spirit-controlled, disciplined, obedient life then these characteristics should be evident in your life and they should overflow to your brothers and sisters in Christ. We should be devoted to one another in brotherly love, practicing humility by regarding one another as more important than ourselves in honor. In our service to the Lord, we need to do it with zeal and diligence and while being fervent in spirit. All that we do should be as to the Lord and for His glory.

I know there are some commands here that I need to develop in my life, and I am praying that God by His power will make these realities in my life, that He will develop these characteristics in my life for His glory. Let's seek to live these out in our church body.