

THE SPIRIT-CONTROLLED LIFE – PART 1

--ROMANS 12:9-13--

INTRODUCTION:

As promised, we return to Romans this morning after a month break. We will pick up where we left off in Romans 2:9.

This morning we will begin a new section of Romans where Paul will give us a list of the basic characteristics of a Christian who is living a Spirit-controlled life. These exhortations of Paul can be grouped into 4 categories. Duties concerning our personal life, our family life with other believers, our life with other people in general, and our life with those who have declared themselves as our enemies. This morning we will only look at the first category concerning our personal duties.

I. DUTIES OF A SPIRIT-CONTROLLED LIFE – PERSONAL

(Romans 12:9)

Ia. Love without hypocrisy (Romans 12:9a)

- Paul first gives duties that are of a _____ nature.
- He begins by writing, “Let _____ be without hypocrisy.” (Romans 12:9a, NASB95)
- This is the love which God has for _____. (*1 John 4:16; Matthew 22:37-40; 1 Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:22*)
- Paul writes that this love is to be without _____.

Ib. Abhor what is Evil (Romans 12:9b)

- Next Paul exhorts the Spirit-controlled person to “Abhor what is _____.” (Romans 12:9b, NASB95) (*Proverbs 9:10; 8:13*)
- Evil is the _____ of God and of love. (*Romans 7:14-21*)
- We must make a choice to _____ evil, when we flirt with sin, we can be sure that we will fall into it. (*Psalms 1:1-2*)
- Paul more than once instructed Timothy to _____ from evil and to _____ righteousness. (*1 Thessalonians 5:21-22*)

Ic. Cling to what is good (Romans 12:9c)

- Thirdly, Paul writes that we are to “cling to what is _____.” (Romans 12:9c, NASB95) (*Ephesians 5:31*)
- Paul had told the Philippians what those good things were in Philippians 4:8. (*1 Thessalonians 5:21-22*)
- Paul had already told us how we can find what is good, he wrote in verse 2 of this chapter, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the _____ of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2, NASB95)

CONCLUSION:

Paul instructs us on how we can practically live the Spirit-controlled life by letting our love be without hypocrisy, selfless, more concerned for the one loved than the one doing the loving. Imagine if we loved everyone this way, what a different world this would be. Do you have this kind of love for others? (*1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 4:7-8*) This love for one another is the evidence that we know and love God. (*1 John 4:20–21*) As Spirit-controlled believers, let us love as Christ loved us.

Paul also instructed us to hate what is evil, resist it, flee from it. We must be discerning, and we must examine all things carefully by the Word of God, then we will know what is evil. As we are conformed to the image of Christ we will hate what He hates. We cannot get away from evil it is all around us and we are bombarded by it constantly, but we do not have to embrace it, instead by the Spirit of God we can hate it and not allow it to infect us. Abhor what is evil.

Finally, Paul instructed us to cling to what is good, literally bind or glue ourselves to what is good. We do this by filling our lives with God’s Word, I cannot stress enough to you that you must be in God’s Word daily, and more than a verse or two. Take 15 minutes of your day and just read God’s Word and you will begin to want more. I suggest you read the Bible through in a year. There are plans that can be found on the internet. I have even printed one for you and put it on the back table if you would like to try to read the Bible in a year. Find some plan and use it so that you can be gluing yourself to what is good.