

A Need to Be Different

Romans 12.14-21

Because we are living expressions of God's grace, we must possess the kind of attitudes and portray the kind of actions toward one another and the world that exemplify the character of Christ. Our text today reveals both these **attitudes** and **actions** that we are to manifest toward one another and the world.

A Need to be Different in Our Attitudes

Our passage today is a continuation of the passage which began in verse 9. There, Paul sounded the theme when he said, "***Love must be sincere.***"

Love Blesses Our Persecutors

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse." Romans 12.14

Love Cares For Others

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." Romans 12.15

Love Finds Unity and Produces Real Humility

"Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited." Romans 12.16

Matthew 11.29; 13.55; Luke 9.58; John 1.46; Isaiah 53.2; Luke 7.34; John 7.15; Luke 22.27; Isaiah 53.3; John 5.30; 8.28

A Need to be Different in Our Actions

God's love is not only foundational to our attitudes, but it is foundational to our actions as well. Not only does the Christian have **attitudes to possess**, but he also has **actions to portray**. Love is the motivating factor in both.

Love Looks For Good

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody." Romans 2.17; Deuteronomy 32.35

Love Seeks Peace

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12.18

Love Trusts God to Judge

"Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord." Romans 12.19; Deuteronomy 32.35

Love Returns Good For Evil

*"On the contrary:
'If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.'"* Romans 12.20; Proverbs 25.21-22

Love Wins the True Victory

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12.21

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