

# Unit 21 - Love

## Romans 12:9-21

### Text

<sup>9</sup>Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup>Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.<sup>a</sup> Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. <sup>18</sup>If

it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup>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,"<sup>b</sup> says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>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."<sup>c</sup>

<sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

<sup>a</sup><sup>16</sup> Or willing to do menial work <sup>b</sup><sup>19</sup> Deut. 32:35 <sup>c</sup><sup>20</sup> Prov. 25:21, 22

### Open

- If you had the power to completely eliminate one form of evil in the world, what would it be?

### Discover

1. What general principles is Paul most concerned about here? (vv. 9, 18)

2. What is the difference between "sincere" and "insincere" love? (v. 9; see also 1 John 3:16-18)

3. What examples does Paul give in this passage of what it means to be "devoted to one another in brotherly love" ? (v. 10)

4. How are we to respond to those who mistreat us?

v. 14

v. 17

v. 18

v. 19

v. 20

v. 21

## Discover

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5. What does it mean to "Bless those who persecute you"? (v. 14) What kinds of people does this apply to?

6. What knowledge helps us to be "patient in affliction"? (v. 12; see Romans 5:2-5, 8:18, 8:23-25)

7. Why does Paul specify that we are to share with "God's people" who are in need? (v. 12) Shouldn't we share with everyone? (see Gal. 6:10)

How does this command compare with 2 Thessalonians 3:10?

8. How does the Christian view of hospitality differ from the world's view? (v. 13; see also Luke 14:12-14)

9. What knowledge helps to keep us from taking revenge on those who mistreat us? (v. 19; see also Luke 6:35-36; Romans 2:9-11)

10. In light of the previous question, if God can take revenge, then why can't we? (v. 19)

11. In your own words, what is Paul saying we should avoid in verse 21? What should we do instead?

## Close

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> How do pride and conceit conflict with brotherly love? With peace?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Do you truly "hate what is evil", or only those evils which others commit against you? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Of the commands listed in verses 9-21, which do you find relatively easy to keep? Which are more difficult? |   |