

CHAPTER 11

So... who is the favourite?????

Vs, 2, 3

The story of Elijah....

I ONLY I I am the only one who really is spiritual....

I am the only one who really hears from God....

I am the only one who

Vs...17 -21

The picture of the tree....

Read these verses and discuss what you think Paul is trying to say..???

What is Pauls caution to us.....???

Vs 33 34

A great Doxology hidden in the middle of Romans....

³³ Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

³⁴ For who can know the LORD's thoughts?
Who knows enough to give him advice?

³⁵ And who has given him so much
that he needs to pay it back?

³⁶ For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.

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We only exist because of HIS POWER and we exist to BRING GLORY TO HIS NAME....

THE NEW YOU!!!!

"Copy cats" ... it is so easy for us in the church community to copy each other... when we first come to Christ we often learn from seeing what others do and copying them... and that is fine... that is how we learn.... Just like children... but there comes a time when we need to be mature enough in our faith that we begin to read scripture for ourselves, and listen to Gods voice and begin our own individual journey that in may ways looks like other Christians but... has a personal touch to it....

Transformed:

Starts with... How we think.....

... About God Gods will for you . It is good it is pleasing it is perfect

...About yourself..... Don't think too highly of yourself.

...About each other..... We all belong to each other.

God has made us each unique.... With strengths and weakness....

So... sometimes we seemingly struggle alone in our weaknesses ... thinking we are the only one who feels a certain way... but God has given us the body of Christ the church family to be there to encourage and bless each other .. and that is exactly why... to help us each in our weaknesses to grow stronger.... How does that happen.... Well strangely enough it only happens when we also are using our God given strengths ... gifts To continually build the church of Jesus Christ and the family of God...

So.... Vs 7-8

GIFTINGS... Natural things you are good at... abilities that you were born with ... or ... that you have come to really enjoy

There is no winner!!!! All our gifting are from God and all have equal value.... The trick is to use them!!!!

God is honored and pleased when we are using our gifts and talents for His purposes

To Build the Kingdom

To Help His Church

To love each other....

Gifts in Scripture

Divide into two main categories....

1. Speaking
2. serving.

Romans 12:6-8	1 Corinthians 12:8-10	1 Corinthians 12:28	Ephesians 4:11	1 Peter 4:11
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prophecy• Serving• Teaching• Exhortation• Giving• Leadership• Mercy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Word of wisdom• Word of knowledge• Faith• Gifts of healings• Miracles• Prophecy• Distinguishing between spirits• Tongues• Interpretation of tongues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apostle• Prophet• Teacher• Miracles• Kinds of healings• Helps• Administration• Tongues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apostle• Prophet• Evangelist• Pastor-teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whoever speaks• Whoever renders service^[9]

The Gifts in Romans chapter 12 are also known as the "Motivational " gifts...

Gifts we are given by the Holy Spirit when we accept Christ to help us to live a life of service to God and to one another. We all have all of these gifts.... But we may have a stronger ability in one or another that make it a strong part of our Christian walk of service.....

The other gifts mentioned in Corinthians and Ephesians are available to us all, but we all do not operate in all of these gifts... they may be given to us as we grow in our Christian life... and some we may never fully have as part of our Christian DNA...

A STUDY IN ROMANS CHAPTER 12 9-21

1 Cor 13:1

. If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal

HOW TO HUG.....

A man walked by a bookstore window and saw a book advertised in the window.... How to Hug..

He decided to go into the store and take a closer look.... To his dismay when he asked about the book the shop owner took him to the encyclopedia section of the store... and presented him with an encyclopedia volume covering subjects From "How" through "Hug".

We often in church are guilty of talking about what we should be doing... lots of information about what we should be doing and not so much... actually doing what we should be doing.....

Romans 12:9

LOVE MUST BE _____

What is the difference between real and phony love?

TABLE DISCUSSIONS:

How can you tell something is fake??

How can you tell someone is fake???

Why do you think that Christians are often criticized as being hypocrites??

The same Holy Spirit that gives us gifts.... Gives us love....

Romans 5:5

John 3:16 tells us what God did with His love.... Now we see here in Romans 12 tell us what to do with now our love... the love we have received.....

LOVE MUST BE _____

1 Peter 1:8-9

***You love him, although you have not seen him, and you believe in him, although you do not now see him. So you rejoice with a great and glorious joy which words cannot express, *because you are receiving the salvation of your souls, which is the purpose of your faith in him.**

LOVE MUST BE _____

1 John 4:21

The command that Christ has **given** us **is** this: whoever **loves** God must **love** others also.

LOVE MUST BE _____

2 John 1:6

This **love** I speak of means that we must **live in** obedience to God's commands. The command, as you have all heard from the beginning, is that you must all **live in love**.

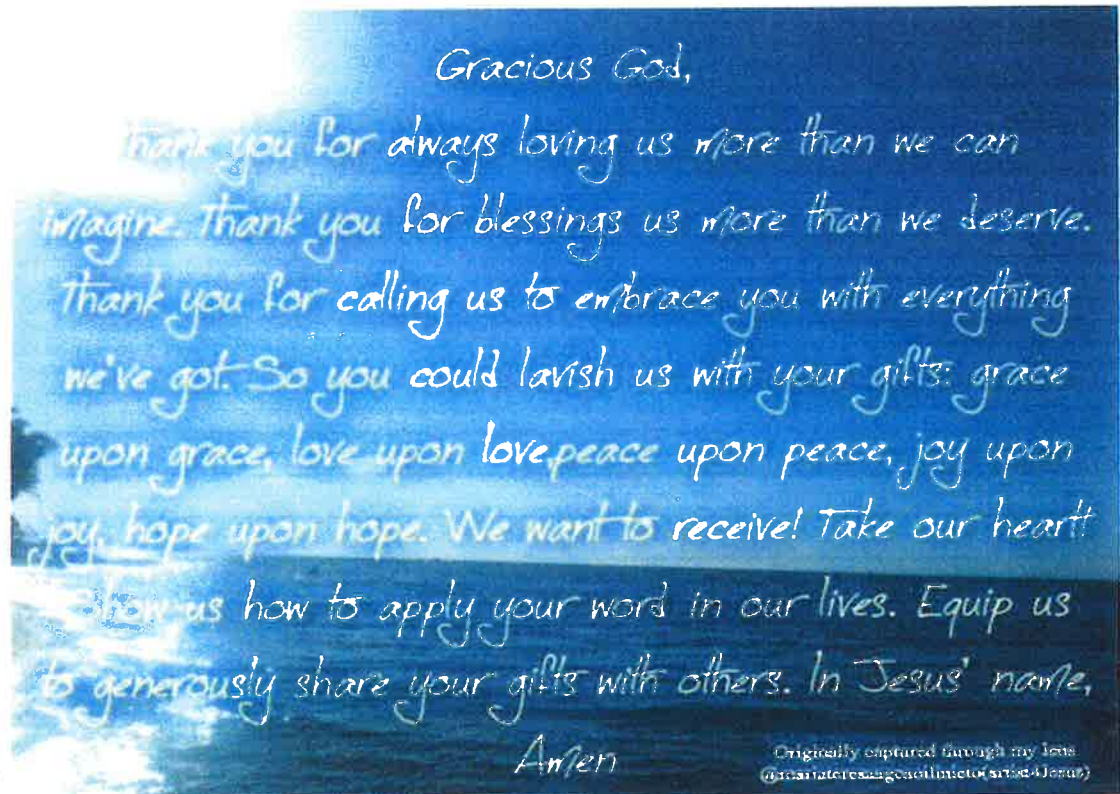
TWO LOOKS OF LOVE...

1. In the family of God..... Romans 12 9 – 13

2. In the "world" Romans 12 14 – 21

PERSONAL REFLECTION

As we have looked over these verses on how we are to live as Christian women what stands out to you the most that you can apply to your life and circumstance.



When Paul wrote this, he was planning to visit Jerusalem, where there were many political tensions. Jewish Zealots were taking up weapons to fight against Rome. There were also political difficulties in Rome: Jews had been involved in so many disturbances that Claudius had forced them to leave (Acts 18:2). After Claudius died, many Jews returned, but the tensions were still there.

Civil government is temporary, but it has been established by God (Dan. 4:17; John 19:11).

“Submit” does not always mean “obey,” but it usually does, and Christians should be willing to obey civil authority. If the government commands a sin, then we have to disobey (Acts 5:29) — but that does not mean that we can fight against the government on other issues. We do not conform to the world (12:2), but neither do we try to overthrow it.

What do you think of when you think of these words.....

AUTHORITY _____

HONOUR _____

RESPECT _____

SUBMISSION _____

Vs 1-7.... Responding to authority

Matt 22:17

FAITH VS GOVERNMENT

What is our relationship to the world to be like?

How do we fit the two together???

Read and discuss these verses:

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Titus 3:1

1 Peter 2 13-16

Sum them up in your own words

We have just had this portion of scripture that may make some people uncomfortable... or even see differently that other believers... When it comes to the church and Government we have lots of different opinions... so what is the law that we apply here....

THE LAW OF LOVE.....

Vs 8-10 .. What do you learn about love???

Mark 12:30

And thou shalt **love the Lord thy God** with all **thy** heart, and with all **thy** soul, and with all **thy** mind, and with all **thy** strength: this is **the** first commandment.

Matt 5:17
John 13:34,35
1 John 3:10
4: 7-12

Sum up these verses in your own words

Vs 11 -14

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE!

It is interesting that Paul has brought us to this point ... We have talked about so much ... now it is time to put as Dr. Phil says.... Verbs in our sentences..!!!

We need to be doers of the words not just hearers...

James 1:22

²² But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

Let your light shine...

.... As Jesus taught on the sermon on the mount. We will spread light throughout the darkness of the world, dispelling darkness by shining the light of Christ shining in us.when we shine in this dark world, people may open their eyes and turn from darkness to light and from the domination of Satan to God to receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in God..

... remember whether someone drinks the living water or is satisfied is not your responsibility. All that is yours to do is to love with the love of Christ so that others may see what the love of the Father is all about and discover the Source of the living water that flows out of you. KAY ARTHUR....

Romans Chapter 14: Living for Each Other (or Making Everyone like me)

Ro 12:9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Ro 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves.

Ro 13:8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow-man has fulfilled the law.

Ro 13:9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Ro 13:10 Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.

John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

1Pe 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Love must be _____.

The nature of love is to _____.

Love must be _____.

Our motives for everything, should be love for God and love for one another.

Read Romans Chapter 14.

As we read, pick out one verse that leaps out to you.

A. The Issue:

In your groups, answer questions 1-2.

1. **Read Romans 14:1** Who is "weak" in faith and who is "strong"? or what is the difference between those who are "weak" and those who are "strong"?

2. a) List the "disputable" matters that Paul brings up in verses 1-7. What is Paul's position on them?

b) What makes them "disputable"?

c) Are there some of the "essentials" of faith – non-negotiables? What makes them "essential"?

Who is weak in faith and who is strong?

One definition: Our faith is strong in an area if we can survive contact with worldly people without falling into their patterns. It is weak in an area if we must avoid certain activities, people, or places in order to protect our spiritual life. It is important to take self-inventory in order to find out our strengths and weaknesses. Whenever in doubt, we should ask, "Can I do that without sinning? Can I influence others for good, rather than being influenced by them?"

Second definition: It is a doctrinal problem. The weak do not understand truth.

a) He has not yet discovered the meaning of Christian freedom; he is still a legalist at heart. Christianity is a list of rules.

b) He has not yet liberated himself from a belief in the efficacy of works. He thinks he can gain God's favour by doing certain things.

B. The Godly Response:

- **How to handle disputes - the negative::**

3. Read Romans 14:1,3.

i) The stronger in faith must not: _____

ii) The weaker in faith must not: _____

- **Why?**

4. Read Romans 14: 4, 11-12

i) We are not _____ over others - only the Lord Jesus Christ is.

ii) It is _____'s job to keep us _____, to correct us if need be.

iii) God is the only true, rightful _____.

• **How to handle disputes - the positive - the way of love:**

Read Romans 14:1, 13-15,19-21

i) _____ each other without passing judgement.
New English Bible says: without trying to settle *doubtful* points.

ii) If you want to judge, start with _____. Are you causing the weak to _____?

How could the weak stumble? In the food issue:

1) The “peer pressure” brought by the example of the strong believers may lead the weak believer to eat what he or she is still convinced is unclean, and so violate his or her conscience (vs. 23)

(2) The strong believers’ flaunting of their freedom to eat all food may so offend conservative Jewish Christians that they are driven from their faith altogether.

iii) make every effort to do what leads to _____ and _____.

Romans 14:17-18 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of **righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.

The strong ought to be more concerned about the growth of the body as a whole rather than their own freedom and spiritual advancement.

iv) Make sure our “convictions” are for the right reasons – not just based on tradition and customs.
Are there traditions that need to be addressed in your life?

v) Live according to our convictions. To go against them is sin. (verse 23)

Questions:

1. Does that mean we are to never express contrary opinions? (verse 16)

2. How should Christians handle situations where opinions differ about what conduct is right?

3. Why is it difficult to suppress our own point of view in order to help those who are weaker in the faith?

4. What is the difference between living for the good of others and living to please others?

5. What are some areas in which you have Christian freedom but need to exercise more restraint? What are you prepared to sacrifice for the sake of others?

Martin Luther on Christian liberty:

“A Christian man is a most free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian man is a most dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”

ROMANS 15

KEY VERSE : Romans 15:13

I PRAY THAT GOD, THE SOURCE OF HOPE, WILL FILL YOU COMPLETELY WITH JOY AND PEACE BECAUSE YOU TRUST IN HIM. THEN YOU WILL OVERFLOW WITH CONFIDENT HOPE THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Continuation about "weaker believers."

How would you describe "weaker believers"?

What is the difference between living for the "good" of others and living to "please" others?

Paul suggests how we should treat "weaker brothers"?

- Accept each other
- Love each other where they are at
- Christ is our example
- Considerate and sensitive

What are some suggestions you can think of ?

-
-
-

How did Christ act?

-
-
-

Three means of encouragement.

1. Encouragement from the past

Take some time to comment on each of the following:

- A. Abraham and Lot
- B. Moses
- C. David and Jonathan

In the New Testament John the Baptist said " He must increase I must decrease" John 3:30

What do you think that verse means.....

And more importantly ...

What does that verse mean to you

By giving in these men gained ... They achieved God's objective and God was glorified.

2. Encouragement from the present - vs. 5-6

Prayer for unity is one of the most important things we can do in times of disagreement .

What does "Unity"mean ?

Do we all...always have to agree?

What happens when there is no longer unity in the body of Christ?

Is there an area in your life that is calling for "unity"?

Take some time to write out your own "Prayer of Unity"

3. Encouragement from what the future holds vs. 7-12

How can we encourage ourselves with the future?

How can we encourage others with the future?

Romans 15:14-22

Two themes in this section:

1. The church at Rome

Paul started this letter by pointing out how the faith of these people was known around the world. Here he gives further insight to this church. They possessed three great qualities.

- 1. They were full of GOODNESS**
- 2. They were complete in KNOWLEDGE**
- 3. They were competent to instruct ONE ANOTHER**

TIME TO TAKE A GOOD LOOK !!!

If you were to examine yourself..... or your group what three qualities would you point out ...

-
-
-

Paul also points out three things they lack - vs 15-16

- 1. They needed a bold reminder of the truth**
- 2. They needed a priestly ministry**
- 3. They needed to become an offering acceptable to God sanctified by the Holy Spirit.**

TIME TO BE HONEST

If you were again to examine yourself ... or your group ... what three things would you say you need to improve ...

-
-
-

2. Ministry of Paul

The greatest secret God has to teach us: Man was designed not to do something to make God happy, but to let God work through the man. God would do the work . This is what Paul said..."what Christ has accomplished through me" R. Steadman From Guilt to Glory

Paul's life and ministry were constantly characterized by the display of the power of God to change lives, and it was wide spread as we see in verse 19

PRAYER IS THE POWER LINE OF OUR EXISTENCE.