

Love One Another Romans 12:10-13 (NKJV)

10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Paul here gives us a list of 9 things that Christians do that demonstrate that they are Christian.

Last week we covered the first 3, today we want to cover the rest.

Have you noticed that most of these have to do with our attitude more than anything else.

And the problem is that the attitude is something that is difficult if not impossible to fake for very long.

But that is the thing. When God changes us He changes the inside first and then the outside.

The love that God gives us grows into action. And that action affects everything we do.

It touches everyone we meet. And it especially touches other saints that we know.

John Murray gives us his way of arrainging these verses to more closely reflect how the Greek has it.

"In brotherly love being kindly affectioned to one another, in honour preferring one another, in zeal not flagging, in spirit fervent, serving the Lord, in hope rejoicing, in affliction being patient, in prayer continuing instant, in the needs of the saints partaking, hospitality pursuing". *John Murray, The Epistle to the Romans – Volume II, (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1997), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 129.*

I. In spirit fervent

A. The word spirit can be used of the Holy Spirit or the human spirit or and evil spirit or just a breeze..

1. It is all the same Greek word πνεῦμα

2. from <G4154> (*pneo*); **a current of air**, i.e. **breath** (blast) or **a breeze**; by analogy **or figurative a spirit**, i.e. (human) the rational soul, (by implicaiton) vital principle, mental disposition, etc., or (superhuman) an angel, dæmon, or (divine) God, Christ's spirit, the Holy Spirit :- ghost, life, spirit (-ual, -ually), mind. Compare <G5590> (*psuche*). *James Strong, Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary, (Austin, TX: WORDsearch Corp., 2007), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "4151".*

B. Revelation 3:15-16 (NKJV) 15 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

1. Spiritually are we hot or cold or just warm. Jesus would rather that we be cold than warm. If you are warm there is little hope for change.
2. But if you are cold you might recognize it and repent.

C. This could be referring to the Holy Spirit (be fervent in the Holy Spirit).

1. Less known, because it is much more rare, is the personality that is so filled with the Holy Spirit that it radiates the presence of Jesus Christ. The man or woman who is filled with the Holy Spirit is aglow with His presence; and, like the rulers of Israel, people will "recognize that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). *Donald Grey Barnhouse, Expositions of Bible Doctrines Taking the Epistle to the Romans As a Point of Departure – Volume 9: God's Discipline, (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1963), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 73.*
2. "fervent in spirit" (or "aglow with the Spirit," RSV), is used to describe Apollos in Acts 18:25. *J.D. Douglas and Philip W. Comfort, ed., New Commentary on the Whole Bible – New Testament: Based on the Classic Commentary of Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1990), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Chapter 12".*
3. Acts 18:25 (NKJV) This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.
4. But the spirit to which Paul refers is more likely, in light of the parallel reference to the Lord in v. 11c, the Holy Spirit. On this view, Paul is exhorting us to allow the Holy Spirit to "set us on fire": to open ourselves to the Spirit as he seeks to excite us about the "rational worship" to which the Lord has called us. *Douglas J. Moo, The New International Commentary on the New Testament – The Epistle to the Romans, (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1996), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 778.*

II. Serving the Lord

A. This is to say, in reference to the Lord, serving.

1. Christians have often been so carried away by enthusiasm for spiritual things that they have left behind those objective standards of Christian living that the Scriptures set forth. This, it seems is Paul's concern; and he seeks to cut off any such abuse by reminding us that being set on fire by the Spirit must lead to, and be directed by, our service of the Lord. *Douglas J. Moo, The New International Commentary on the New Testament – The Epistle to the Romans, (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1996), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 778.*

B. In Romans 12, Paul uses three different words to describe Christian service. In verse 1 he uses *latreia*, which is translated, "service of worship," and emphasizes reverential awe. The second word is *diakonia*, which pertains to practical service. In verse 11, he uses *douleuo*, which refers to the service of a bond-slave, whose very reason for existence is to do his master's will. *John MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Romans 9-16, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 191.*

1. Paul is always telling us that he is a bond-servant of Jesus Christ.
 - a. And this is the word used here.
 - b. It has the idea of a willing and dedicated slave.

III. In hope rejoicing

A. Hope

1. In America, where does hope lie?
 - a. In the next lottery drawing.
 - b. In the next drink.
 - c. In the next pill.
 - d. In the next drug that we smoke or shoot up.
 - e. Anything to stop the pain and give release.
 - f. Some look to the political system for hope.
 - g. Most look to future material prosperity.
 - h. Some are looking to forward with hope to the retirement years. Boy do they have a shock coming.
2. Hope is found only in Jesus Christ.
 - a. Romans 8:24-25 (NKJV) 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
 - c. 2 Timothy 4:8 (NKJV) 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

B. Rejoicing in that hope.

1. What Christians have they have in hope through faith.
2. We need to rejoice knowing that we have the things promised to us.
3. They are our's, God has reserved them for us.
4. **The Christian must be essentially an optimist.** Just because God is God, the Christian is always certain that "the best is yet to be." *William Barclay, Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "The Christian Life in Everyday Action (Rom 12:9-13)".*
5. **Joy evaporates when hope vanishes,** and thus the fires of joy can only be stoked by focusing on hope. *Thomas R. Schreiner, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament – Romans, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1998), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 666.*
6. 1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

IV. In affliction being patient

A. Affliction.

1. There are many kinds.
2. Most of what he speaks of is the affliction we have because we trust Christ.
3. Most of us would not sign up for affliction but Jesus promised us we would have it.
 - a. John 16:33 “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

B. Patience

1. We do not need it when we have no problems.
2. But in trials, patience can wear thin.
3. I remember reading a story one time of a woman that was undergoing much suffering. The pastor visited and asked the lady how he could pray for her. She responded, “Please pray that I will not waste this time of suffering.”

4. Psalms 42:5 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him For the help of His countenance.
5. Romans 5:2-5 (NKJV) 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 **And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;** 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

V. In prayer continuing steadfast

- A. with the dative of a thing, to give constant attention to a thing *J. H. Thayer, trans., Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1889), s.v. “;,” WORDsearch CROSS e-book.*
- B. Acts 2:42 (NKJV) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

VI. In the needs of the saints partaking

- A. **We are to share with those in need. In a world bent on getting, the Christian is bent on giving, because he knows that "what we keep we lose, and what we give we have."** William Barclay, *Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT)*, *WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "The Christian Life in Everyday Action (Rom 12:9-13)"*.

B.

VII. In hospitality pursuing".

- A. Την φιλοξενίαν διωκοντες, pursuing hospitality, or the duty of entertaining strangers. **A very necessary virtue in ancient times, when houses of public accommodation were exceedingly scarce.** This exhortation might have for its object the apostles, who were all itinerants; and in many cases the Christians, flying before the face of persecution. *Adam Clarke, Adam Clarke's Commentary, (New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1826), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "A General Survey of the Epistle to the Romans"*.

All this would be utterly impossible if it were not for the work of God in us.

But He does work in us to accomplish His will.