

## Christianity in Action; Romans 12:9-13

### I. Pews

- A. We often mistake Christianity as something we do on Sunday
  - 1. We come to a building
  - 2. We sit in a pew
  - 3. We sing, pray, take the Lord's Supper, give, and hear a sermon
  - 4. We leave and go to lunch
- B. To be a Christian means to live as a Christian — that is why it is called The Way
  - 1. Philippians 1:27 (ESV); Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,
- C. It is The Way of living for us
- D. Our citizenship has been changed — we are no longer of this world, but of Heaven
  - 1. Philippians 3:17–21 (ESV); <sup>17</sup> Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.
  - 2. Just as being a citizen of the United States has standards of behavior, so does Heaven
  - 3. And by calling on Jesus' name to be our Lord, our Savior, we accept The Way of living that God has prepared for us
- E. A new year, a new start — let's start by understanding love and how to show it

### II. Love Each Other

- A. Romans 12:9–10 (ESV); <sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.
- B. Genuine — un-hypocritical, without pretense, sincere — literally, without play-acting
- C. Genuine love is not an easy thing
  - 1. It means loving the unlovable — the drug addicts, the homeless, the hypocrites, the mean, those who are living in sin
  - 2. It does not mean we condone or even celebrate a sinful lifestyle (abhor what is evil)
  - 3. It means we love them with sacrificial love whether or not they accept it
  - 4. It means we truly care for them
- D. 1 John 4:7–8 (ESV); <sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
  - 1. Love is the calling card of a Christian
  - 2. Jesus tells us that people will know we are his disciples by the love we show to each other
  - 3. John 13:34–35 (ESV); <sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
  - 4. Jesus had just finished washing the disciples feet — He used that action to show them love
- E. Love is action
  - 1. James 2:18 (ESV); But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.
  - 2. While James is talking about faith, the concept is the same for love

3. Many relationships fail because one of the persons does not show love
  4. The five love languages — Gary Chapman
    - a) Receiving gifts
    - b) Quality time
    - c) Physical touch
    - d) Words of affirmation
    - e) Acts of Service
  5. These are all actions not emotions — this is what makes us feel loved, actions not emotions
  6. Titus 2:11–14 (ESV); <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
- F. Love for each other is seen in our service to one another
- III. Love The Lord
- A. Romans 12:11 (ESV); Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.
  - B. If we understand that we show love by serving others, then we show our love for God by serving Him
    1. 1 John 2:1–6 (ESV); <sup>1</sup> My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. <sup>3</sup> And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. <sup>4</sup> Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, <sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: <sup>6</sup> whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.
    2. We see love manifesting itself in actions — keeping His commandments
  - C. The example we have is Jesus
    1. Philippians 2:5–8 (ESV); <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
    2. Jesus obedience led him to the cross — ours should too
    3. Luke 9:23–24 (ESV); <sup>23</sup> And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.
  - D. Jesus gave up His life for ours, and He expects us to give up our lives for Him
  - E. Galatians 2:20 (ESV); I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- IV. Take Up Your Cross
- A. Have you been crucified with Christ?
  - B. Do you love God so much that you want to keep His commandments?
  - C. Do you love others enough to serve them and to serve God
  - D. Mark 12:29–31 (ESV); <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”