# WEEK THREE
# LOVE LIVED OUT

**Romans 12:9 write the verse**

**This week, Paul begins to lay out actionable ways in which we can live out our reasonable service to the Lord. (If you are a checklist person, this is your week!)**

**He tells us how our lives will look when we stop being conformed to this world and start being transformed into a living sacrifice. As with most Biblical principles, it all starts with love:**

> **"LET LOVE BE WITHOUT DISSIMULATION."**

Dissimulation- unfeigned, undisguised, without hypocrisy (Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database, n.d.)

**Love is one of those tricky words that can carry several different meanings based on the context. We might say, "I love chocolate cake," or "I love coffee!" But that is obviously not the same type of love we have in mind when we look at our spouse, our children, or those closest to us. When we say we love "things," we usually just mean that we enjoy them greatly. Yet,**

**when we use that same word toward people, it has to mean more than just liking or enjoying someone's company.**

**The world tells us that love is merely an emotion. It treats love as something based entirely on how we feel—but the problem with having this worldly view is that feelings shift from day to day and can change with our circumstances.**

**In contrast, Paul states that our love as God's children should be without hypocrisy. Our love shouldn't be put on, fake, or pretend. It must be completely genuine, carrying no hidden motives. As 1 John 4:19 reminds us, "We love Him, because He first loved us." We don't love others because of who they are or because of a fleeting feeling we might have. Rather, we love others because God loved us first, and it is His love in us that teaches us how to love.**

**Ultimately, we have to ask ourselves: “Are we loving others to make ourselves look good, or are we doing it to truly demonstrate God’s love?”**

## "ABHOR THAT WHICH IS EVIL;”

Abhor- is to loathe or shrink back in horror (merriam-webster.com Dictionary, n.d.)

**The imagery that this wording implies should be one of a physical reaction to evil. A reaction where we are so repulsed by wickedness that we back away in horror from it. Picture jumping back from a spider or snake. This should be our reaction to things that are evil.**

## “CLEAVE TO THAT WHICH IS GOOD."

Cleave- glue, cement, or weld together (Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, n.d.)

**We should actively connect ourselves to that which is good. Paul is kindly demonstrating to the church that we cannot actively join ourselves to things that wound and destroy while wearing a mask of love. We must love purely from the love given to us, connecting to good (what is honorable and upright) while staying back from evil.**

**Romans 12:10 write the verse**

## "BE KINDLY AFFECTIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER WITH BROTHERLY LOVE,"

**This kind of affection describes the deep tenderness often shared between parents and children or husbands and wives. It is compassion that is given freely, not out of expectation for what someone can do or give in return. Brotherly love is demonstrated out of the love God has poured into us for others, especially the body of Christ.**

## "IN HONOR PREFERRING ONE ANOTHER."

Preferring - to go before and show the way - to go before another as an example (Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electric Database. n.d.)

**We often think of preferring one another as simply choosing one person over another. However, the Greek word used in this verse is *proegeomai*, which actually means to lead the way by example. The scripture is telling us that we should be kindly affectionate with brotherly love toward one another so that we can set an example for others to see God. Our acts of love and compassion should be a living demonstration of a transformed life.**

### Thought to consider:

1. **Can others watching your life see the kindness of the Lord being lived out loud?**

2. **Are you leading others in true love, kindness, and compassion by clinging to what is good?**

3. **Are you living with a mask on, pretending to love and be kind while secretly giving into the things of this world?**

## "NOT SLOTHFUL IN BUSINESS,"

**The child of God should not be lazy in serving and following the Lord's commands. We should all be active about our Father's business.**

> **And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? Luke 2:49**

**Jesus is our very example of how to live and even at age 12, He was active about His Father's business. So, shouldn't we be also?**

## "FERVENT IN SPIRIT,"

**To be fervent in spirit is to boil over for what is good. Picture a pot on the stove full of water, what happens when the water begins to boil?**

**Just as the water becomes so excited that it overflows the pot we also should be overflowing with all that the Lord has given to us. When we are fervent in spirit the fruit of Spirit will overflow from our lives like boiling water. Then others will actively see the outpouring of the Holy Spirit living through us.**

## "SERVING THE LORD:"

**An overflowing spirit will cause us to want to serve the Lord. Jesus told the disciples that as God had sent Him, He was sending them which is to say He is sending us to go and serve.**

> Then said Jesus to them again, Peace [be] unto you: as [my] Father hath sent me, even so send I you. John 20:21

**Serving is not us going to church on Sundays. Serving is us going out and being the hands and feet of Jesus. It is us living each day doing all things for the Lord. How we work, how we love, how we give, and everything in between – that's serving the Lord!**

> And whatsoever ye do, do [it] heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23-24

**In this verse, Paul is basically reminding us to not be lazy in our service, but to live excited, fervent in spirit, about God's goodness as we serve the Lord.**

## Ask yourself:

1. **When was the last time you served with an overflowing spirit?"**

2. **Has your service been accompanied more with complaints and grumbling rather than excitement lately?**

3. **Have you felt more of a desire to sit at home instead of getting up and serving the Lord?**

**Romans 12:12 write the verse**

**Paul gives us three distinct actionable items in this verse for living.**

## "REJOICING IN HOPE;"

**Regardless of our circumstances, whether it's a difficult diagnosis, a struggling job, or family hardships...every child of God can rejoice in hope.**

**Rejoicing in hope means we aren't rejoicing in our current moment or our earthly situation. Instead, we are rejoicing in the One to come.**

**Our hope is far beyond this world; our hope is secure in Jesus Christ, our risen Saviour!**

**What do the following verses tell us about our hope?**

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|---|---|
| 1 Peter 1:3 | |
| Romans 15:13 | |
| Hebrews 10:23 | |

**The "hope" that this world offers, is nothing more than wishful thinking, a fragile desire that something might possibly come to pass. But for the redeemed, our hope is a confident expectation in the One to come. It is the absolute certainty of what we know will be, all because of Jesus.**

## "PATIENT IN TRIBULATION;"

Patient - (hypomeno - Greek) to persevere under misfortunes and trials; to hold fast to one's faith in Christ. (Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic database. n.d.)

**When we look at the biblical definition of the Greek word used in this verse, we learn that being patient in tribulation means to continue on in our faith even when things get hard. Simply put, we are being told not to give up or shrink back from our faith in Christ, no matter what difficulties we face.**

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
Knowing [this], that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let

patience have [her] perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. James 1:2-4

*"Having a good day doesn't mean an easy day or a perfect day. It means a day spent seeking the kingdom of God. A day lived in the will of God is the best day anyone could ever spend." ROY LESSIN*

## "CONTINUING INSTANT IN PRAYER,"

**This is how we accomplish the last part, patience in tribulation! When we learn to pray first, pray trusting, and pray without stopping, then we can persevere through whatever comes our way.**

Pray without ceasing. I Thessalonians 5:17

**Too often, our first instinct when we face the trials of this life is to grumble, complain, or call a friend. But that is the world's way. When we allow ourselves to be transformed by renewing our minds to the Lord's way, our very first response will be to go to God.**

**Praying continually isn't burdensome. It doesn't necessarily mean we have to stop everything and kneel down to pray; although there are absolutely times we should. Being instant in prayer is simply talking with God all through the day!**

| | |
|---|---|
| Washing dishes | Talk to God |
| Folding laundry | Talk to God |
| Driving to the store | Talk to God |
| Cooking dinner | Talk to God |
| Before a conversation | Talk to God |

**Instant prayer is our acknowledgement that God is always with us, cares for us, and desires for us to communicate with Him in all things.**

> Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Philippians 4:6

**Romans 12:13 write the verse**

We will look at verse 13 as a whole.

**As the body of Christ, we should attend to the needs of one another. If a part of our body is hurt or in need we would seek care, as such we should also care for the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ. If we all care equally for one another, none shall lack.**

> For [I mean] not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: But by an equality, [that] now at this time your abundance [may be a supply] for their want, that their abundance also may be [a supply] for your want: that there may be equality: As it is written, He that [had gathered] much had nothing over; and he that [had gathered] little had no lack. 2 Corinthians 8:13-15

**We should tend to the needs of the body of Christ first, but we are also called to look out for the needs of others.**

## "GIVEN TO HOSPITALITY."

**Finally, Paul tells us to be "given to hospitality." We often think of hospitality as entertaining friends, hosting a dinner**

**party, or having a beautifully decorated home. But the Biblical meaning goes much deeper than that. The Greek word here literally means "love to strangers." It means having a heart and a home that is open to those in need, even when it isn't convenient.**

**Notice that the verse doesn't say, "show hospitality," it says given to it. That means we are to look for ways to be a blessing.**

**Read the verses below and put into your own words what the scriptures teach us about our giving.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Matthew 25:35-40 | |
| James 2:14-17 | |
| 1 John 3:17-18 | |

**We can't only tend to spiritual needs and neglect a person's physical needs. Our providing for the necessities of this life, opens the door to share the gospel. It is in our demonstration of mercy and grace to others that they are able to see the love of God in action.**

**When we combine this with distributing to the necessity of saints, we see how we are to care for everyone. In doing so, we demonstrate the very love, mercy, and grace that was so freely given to us by the Lord. That is how we truly become the living hands and feet of Jesus to the world.**