

Romans 12:9-21 Living Together pt. 3

2/7/10 - The Exchange

- I. Intro
  - A. Maybe not obvious, will be today, talking about Living Together. Put it all together today.
  - B. Started with **Our Thinking**
    - 1. 12:1-2 Thinking of ourselves in relationship to God
    - 2. 12:3-8 Thinking of ourselves in relationship to the church. Somewhat action oriented but it starts with our thinking.
  - C. Going to talk about **actions**, what it looks like. **In the body**.
- II. **12:9-16** Still in the context of the body. Primary application of these things is in the body, but obviously extends outward. If we can't do them in the body, how can we do them out?
  - A. **12:9**
    - 1. **love** - allow for the potential, the possibility for being completely given over to.
    - 2. **without hypocrisy** - be a bad actor
    - 3. The next two couplets expand on what this means.
    - 4. **abhor** - hate, abhor, detest with horror. Active voice, you do it. Participle, -ing
    - 5. **evil** - just what comes to mind. In the body? In individuals? Si.
    - 6. **cling** - glue. Passive voice, participle. Once you are glued you don't keep gluing, you are passively in a state of being glued.
    - 7. **good** - good.
    - 8. Love isn't focusing on one or the other and letting your focus determine your action, while pretending the other doesn't exist. Love does both. **In other words, love others in the body the way Jesus loves us.** Deal with the bad while extolling the good.
  - B. **12:10**
    - 1. Family affection and love
    - 2. put value in being an example of this to one another
    - 3. **Neither of these things can be done in the body without intimacy to the point of dependence.**
  - C. **12:11-13** The manner and motivation in which love is shown, and all is done TOGETHER, NOT ALONE.
    - 1. **not lagging in diligence** - don't be a slacker
    - 2. **fervent in spirit** - like water boiling because of heat from an outside source, be boiling because of the power of the Spirit.
    - 3. **serving the Lord** - by doing this to one another you can consider it as service unto Jesus.
    - 4. **rejoice in hope** - be exceedingly glad because of what you are looking forward to. Are you looking forward to something? Your next paycheck, healing, Jesus coming back. Or are you Debbie Downer?
    - 5. **patient in tribulation** - persevering under pressure. No paycheck, feeling sick, Jesus hasn't come back yet.
    - 6. **continuing steadfastly to prayer** - like Sam stuck to Frodo, Like Ruth to Naomi, like those musicians on the Titanic.
    - 7. **distributing to the needs of the saints** - just so

8. **given to hospitality** - Just as "Dead Heads" are given over to the Grateful Dead, so we are to be given over to loving, being friendly toward strangers. Traveling Christians.
- D. **12:14-16** When people aren't where you are
1. **12:14** Persecution from those in the church? Absolutely. Legalistic pharisees. How people treat Rick Warren.
  2. **12:15** What if I'm the opposite? You will either find or offer strength when you humble yourself. Remember, cells in body.
  3. **12:16** No high school cliques.
  - 4.
- III. **12:17-21** Going **outside the body** now. This is radical stuff. Thinking
- A. **12:17**
1. **repay** - when we are wronged we feel we owe something back. We don't. Remember, how do you think of yourself? In Christ?
  2. **have regard for good things** - Those outside the body should be able to see that your values are different. Not just adding Christianity to normal life. Fundamentally different. How will they know if you are trying to fit in? **This will be evident when they see how you react when you are mistreated.** Small scale, me and Jeff Condon on bus trip.
- B. **12:18** Who is the responsibility on? You, believer. Not easy!
- C. **12:19-20** Why would we want to do this with those outside? Consider Christians during the time of Rome. Radical speech - **Matt. 5:38-47.**
- D. **12:21** Just like Jesus.
- IV. **Wrap up**
- A. **The Christian life, in our minds, in our churches, outside our churches, is a radical life. Normal Christianity is supposed to look radical to regular people. Why? Because it is! How do we do it?**
- B. **Living together by the power of the Spirit**
1. **Have right thinking about your relationship to God**
  2. **Have right thinking about your relationship to other believers**
  3. **Act on that right thinking in the body with intimacy to the point of dependency.**
  4. **Act on that right thinking outside the body with Jesus as our example.**