

Love Without Hypocrisy

Romans, Part LVII

Romans 12:9-13

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I. The Torlonia Marbles

An Outline of Romans

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Romans 12:9-13

⁹Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹²rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

II. Love Without Hypocrisy

A. The danger of "*love with hypocrisy*" (12:9a cf. Pr 1:22; 8:13; 12:1; 23:6ff)

Webster defines hypocrisy as "*a feigning to be what one is not; or dissimulation, a concealment of one's real character or motives.*" Love *with hypocrisy*, therefore, is fake love; it is to claim to love another but by one's *actions* or *attitudes* to bely that claim. Paul urges us to distinguish between *love with and without hypocrisy*. Not all love is love.

B. The nature of "*love without hypocrisy*"

To love another is (1) to treat him _____ (2) from the _____.

1. Treating others lawfully (12:9 cf. 13:8-10)

Love without hypocrisy *abhors what is _____ and clings to what is _____*. In other words, true love joyfully embraces God's eternal and unchanging moral law.

⁸Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

¹⁰Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. (Rom 13:8-10)

Love does not replace the law or make the law obsolete. Love *fulfills* God's law. Love says, "*Oh how I love your law, it is my meditation by day and night*" (Ps 119:97). True love longs to see people become increasingly virtuous; it strives to help them reflect more fully the image of God that is in them. As Irenaeus said in the 2nd century, "*The _____ of God is a human being fully alive.*"

To claim to "*love*" someone and then to further their personal degradation is to hate them, not to love them. To love them is to help them reflect the glory of their Creator, the One whose _____ they bear. True love is characterized by virtuous actions.

2. From the heart (12:10-13)

The first part of our definition insists that love must be defined by God's moral law – there are loving and unloving actions; the second part of our definition insists that love must be genuine, *from the heart*; this addresses the attitude/motive. True love is not characterized by mere external conformity to a set of rules; it is an inward disposition of heart that desires to glorify God and to bless others.

True love is characterized by filial loyalty and beneficence; it is a desire to labor and work for the blessing of others in the fear of God.

- *In honor giving preference to one another – Love without hypocrisy* is other-centered not self-centered; it shuns contempt and honors the _____ of God in others. It teaches us to look out not only for our own interests but also for the interests of others (cf. Phil 2:3-4), to show *preference* to them in *honor*.
- *Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord – Love without hypocrisy* ever keeps in mind that the reason we love others is because we love God; hence, all my labors should be characterized by *diligence* and *zeal* – to truly love others is to serve them with *diligence* out of *zeal* for God. Calvin writes, “*we shall never be properly prepared to obey Christ, unless we urge ourselves forward and strive diligently to shake off all our _____*” (271f). As Solomon says, “*He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer*” (Pr 18:9).
- *Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation – Love without hypocrisy* rejoices in the hope that we have in Christ and helps others see that hope; it remembers that the sufferings of this life are not to be compared with the glories which shall follow (Rom 8:18); hence, it bears up under tribulations in order that it might bless and encourage others who are also called to suffer.
- *Continuing steadfastly in prayer – Love without hypocrisy* lifts ourselves and others before the throne of God because it knows that _____ alone can equip us to love well.
- *Distributing to the needs of the saints – Love without hypocrisy* does not despise one's poorer brethren but endeavors to help them and lift them up. Love looks for opportunities to bless and serve.
- *Given to hospitality – Love without hypocrisy* does not demand hospitality from others but is given or _____ to hospitality. Calvin defines hospitality as “*the friendliness and generosity*”

III. Conclusion