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Please take a moment to quiet your heart before the Lord. Ask Him to cleanse your soul any unrighteousness and to open your heart to His Holy Word.

Please read Romans 12:9-13.

What three things are we commanded to do in verse 9?

Notice that the first command listed in verse 9 is to conduct ourselves in love; not only love for our church, fellow believers and families but for our enemies as well. *Abhor* means to hate something so intensely that we separate ourselves from it. *Cling*, in the original Greek means to glue oneself to, to fasten or cement together. May we choose to permanently separate ourselves from all that is evil and glue ourselves to what is good.

Because we love our brothers and sisters in Christ, according to verse 10, what are we to do?

We are to honor them and give them preference over ourselves. It's easy to honor those whom we love and respect, but how about those who seem unlovable, harsh and unkind? The word *honor* contains the answer to this question. From Greek, *honor* transliterates as *time* which means "valuing by which the price is fixed, deference, reverence, of the *price paid or received for a person or thing bought or sold* (emphasis mine)." The reason we can honor one who has been harsh or unkind to us is because of the value that Christ placed upon that person. While we were still sinners Christ shed blood upon the cross for all.

What are we to do according to verse 11?

We are to be diligent and fervent in our service to the Lord. Let's consider the Greek definitions of these two words:

Diligent: with haste, with earnestness in accomplishing, to strive after, interest oneself most earnestly.

Fervent: to boil, to be hot, zeal

Please highlight or underline the definition that spoke to you the most.

If your current level of service for the Lord is bland and boring ask God to change your heart and give you passion and energy to serve Him and then get busy! Don't wait for your feelings to be right. Right feelings follow right actions.

Read verse 12 again and choose one word to sum up the message of this verse.

I chose the word *wait*:

Rejoicing in hope: waiting for something to come;

Patient in tribulation: waiting for something to end;

Continuing steadfastly in prayer: waiting for an answer.

Verse 13 states we are to meet the needs of the saints and to have a habit of hospitality. In short, we are to give of ourselves to meet *physical* and *spiritual* needs of other believers.

In what way do you need to give more to help others?

In this passage from the Book of Romans, Paul has given us many wise words to live by. This week, please focus on one of the commands that we studied today. Ask God to fill you with the power of His Holy Spirit and enable you to accomplish what He has called you to do.

Be blessed.

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