



HEBRON

Sunday, February 3, 2019

Dr. Landon Dowden

LOVE WITHOUT MASKS

Romans 12:9

VITAL SIGNS OF THE GOSPEL COMMUNITY (Romans 12:9-13)

- The Gospel Community loves without hypocrisy.
- The Gospel Community hates what is evil.
- The Gospel Community clings to what is good.
- The Gospel Community loves one another with brotherly affection.
- The Gospel Community outdoes one another in showing honor.
- The Gospel Community is not slothful in zeal.
- The Gospel Community is fervent in Spirit.
- The Gospel Community serves the Lord.
- The Gospel Community rejoices in hope.
- The Gospel Community is patient in tribulation.
- The Gospel Community is constant in prayer.
- The Gospel Community contributes to the needs of the saints.
- The Gospel Community seeks to show hospitality.

Passage in a Sentence: By God's mercies, we are to love one another genuinely as we help each other hate what is evil and cling to what is good.

- I. By God's mercies, Christians are to love one another genuinely.
 - a. Paul is saying:
 - i. Do not let your love be fake or just a mask that you wear.
 - ii. Do not pretend to love other Christians, actually love them.
 - b. What is love?
 - i. Cole: "a self-sacrificing, caring commitment that shows itself in seeking the highest good of the one loved."
 - c. Why does genuine love matter?
 - i. Love matters so we may know we are alive in Christ. (1 Jn. 3:14; 5:1-5)



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- ii. Love matters so the world may know that we are Christ's disciples. (Jn. 13:35)
 - 1. Few lost souls are won to a genuine love of Christ by a church that only pretends to love one another.
 - d. How is genuine love produced?
 - i. God pours His love into our hearts. (Rom. 5:5)
 - ii. God's Spirit produces love in and through us. (Gal. 5:22)
 - iii. God uses our spiritual gifts to build our faith family up in love. (Eph. 4:16)
 - di. God's love toward us is always genuine, therefore we do not image Him well when our love is fake!
- II. By God's mercies, Christians are to love one another by helping each other hate what is evil.
 - a. We are called not just to dislike evil or be bothered by it, but to hate it, to be disgusted by it, to shrink back in horror of it, or to loathe it.
 - b. Paul is not just calling us to an external action but an intense internal rejection of what is evil.
 - c. Paul obviously meant this because he wrote it more than once: 1 Thess. 5:21-22 But test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.
 - d. What does this mean? Real love does not love everything. Genuine love is actually discriminating. It hates evil.
 - i. 1 Cor. 13:6 "love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth"
 - e. Who determines what is "good" and what is "evil?" God determines what is good and evil for all times and all places.
 - i. We never have freedom to call "good" what God has said is evil and to call "evil" what God has said is good.
 - f. How do we know what is good and evil? – Rom. 12:2 – He transforms our mind to know what is good, acceptable and perfect.
 - i. God has recorded His Word.
 - ii. God has written his law on every heart. (Rom. 2:14-15)
 - g. Once we understand what God says is evil, then we are to hate all of it and not just some of it.
 - i. What does God hate? (Prov. 6:16-19; Is. 1:12-15; Amos 5:21; Ps. 5:4-5)



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- h. We should not be experts in pointing out the sins in others while failing to put away sin in our lives.
 - i. In the Gospel Community, we show genuine love by spurring one another to keep hating evil and to keep clinging to what is good.
 - i. Two keys in despising what is evil:
 - 1. Saturation – filling our mind with God’s Word
 - 2. Separation – making no provision for sin in our lives.
- III. By God’s mercies, Christians are to love one another by helping each other cling to what is good.
- a. To “cling to,” literally means to be “glued to” or “cemented to” or “fastened to.”
 - b. We can hold fast to what is good because the One who is good holds us fast.
 - c. Genuine love never encourages toward evil nor hinders the pursuit of what’s good.
 - d. May our love for Christ always be greater than our love for sin.