

## **“What Living Sacrifices Look Like”**

*Romans 12:9-21*

*“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good . . .  
Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.” (12:9, 21)*

Paul began ch. 12 by telling us how the mercies of God should be seen in our day-to-day life. It begins with a renewed mind following God’s Word to help us discern what pleases Him (v.2). A change in the way we think about God obviously means a change in the way we think about ourselves (v.3) and our relationships towards each other (vv.4-8) resulting in changed actions. While vv.9-21 may seem like a collection of random commands they are borne out of the root command to be living sacrifices by renewing our minds. How does a renewed mind about God and one another look like in day-to-day living – as we relate to each other as well as to an unsaved world?

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### **“Sacrificial Love in Action, Part 1” (12:9-16)**

*What is the very first statement in v.9?*

**12:9** “Love must be \_\_\_\_\_ “ or “without \_\_\_\_\_.”

*Biblical love is a selfless and an unconditional commitment to one another. What characterizes this kind of love?*

**12:9a** “\_\_\_\_\_ what is evil; \_\_\_\_\_ to what is good.”

**12:21** “Do not be overcome by \_\_\_\_\_ but overcome evil with \_\_\_\_\_.”

*The word for “evil” can refer to many bad things. Perhaps the simplest way to define evil is by its common use to describe a person.*

**John 17:15** “I do not ask You to take them out of the world but to protect them from the \_\_\_\_\_ one.” [cf. 1 John 2:13, 14; 3:12; 5:18-19; Eph. 6:16; 2 Thes. 3:3]

**\*What then might be the simplest way to define evil?**

**\*Along the same line how might we define good?**

*The word for “cling” means an extremely close union. What strong word picture do these verses use to help us understand how close to good we should be?*

**Matt. 19:5**

**1 Cor. 6:16**

Who should we be seeking close relationships with?

**12:10** "Be \_\_\_\_\_ to one another in \_\_\_\_\_ love."

"\_\_\_\_\_ one another above yourselves"

*This word 'honour' or 'preference' means to go before and lead. How is that a good example of being a living sacrifice?*

*How else are we to show we are living sacrifices?*

**12:11** "Never be lacking in \_\_\_\_\_ but keep your spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ serving the Lord."

**What hinders us from maintaining 'zeal' and 'spiritual fervor' for the Lord?**

*Vv. 12-13 may indirectly answer why our zeal sometimes wanes because of life's circumstances and the constant needs of people. What else are we to keep doing?*

**12:13** "Be \_\_\_\_\_ in hope' \_\_\_\_\_ In affliction, \_\_\_\_\_ in prayer. Share with God's people who are in \_\_\_\_\_. Practise \_\_\_\_\_."

**Why do we need to 'endure' or 'remain longer at prayer'?**

*How was practising hospitality in Paul's day more of a 'living sacrifice' than perhaps the way we understand it today?*

*Read 3 John 5-8*

**v.5** "Dear friend [Gaius] you are faithful in what you are doing for the \_\_\_\_\_ even though they are \_\_\_\_\_ to you.

**v.6** "They have told the church about your \_\_\_\_\_. You will do well to \_\_\_\_\_ them on their way in a manner worthy of God."

**v.7** "It was for the sake of the \_\_\_\_\_ that they went out receiving no help from the \_\_\_\_\_."

**v.8** "We ought therefore to show \_\_\_\_\_ to such men so that we may work together for the \_\_\_\_\_."

*V. 14 is still connected to the reasons our zeal may wane and our hope diminish. How are we to show sacrificial love here?*

**12:14** "Bless [speak well of] those who \_\_\_\_\_ you; bless and do not \_\_\_\_\_ [speak ill of]."

*Whose teaching is Paul echoing here?*

**Matt. 5:38-48** \_\_\_\_\_

*Vv. 15-16 continue in our need to serve one another.*

**12:15** "Rejoice with those who \_\_\_\_\_; mourn with those who \_\_\_\_\_."

**12:16** Live in \_\_\_\_\_ with one another. Do not be \_\_\_\_\_ willing to associate with people of \_\_\_\_\_ position."

## **“Sacrificial Love in Action, Part 2” (12:17-21)**

*This last section is still related to our relationship with the unsaved who may persecute us. What are we commanded?*

**12:17** “Do not repay \_\_\_\_\_ evil for evil. Be careful to do what is \_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of everyone.”

**\*Be careful” means “think beforehand. How does this help us to not retaliate?**

*According to v. 18 who is to take the initiative on maintaining the peace?*

**12:18** “If it is possible, so far as it depends on \_\_\_\_\_ live at peace with \_\_\_\_\_.”

*V. 19 says we are not to seek revenge but leave room for “God’s wrath”. This phrase is quoted twice in the Old Testament. Note the context of each.*

**Lev. 19:18** “Do not seek revenge or bear a \_\_\_\_\_ against one of \_\_\_\_\_ people but love your neighbour as \_\_\_\_\_, I am the Lord.”

**Deut. 32:34-35** “Have I not kept this in reserve and sealed it in my vaults? It is mine to avenge and I will repay. In \_\_\_\_\_ Their foot will slip; they’re \_\_\_\_\_ of disaster is near and their doom \_\_\_\_\_ upon them.”

**\*What might showing kindness do to those who want to harm us? [See 1 Pet. 2:11-12]**

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