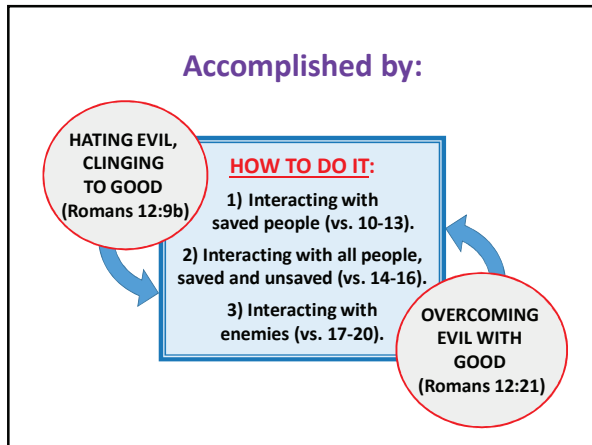


LOVE
 Without Hypocrisy
 (in the book of Romans)

19 – Sharing with God's people (1)
 > Introduction <

Romans 12:9-21

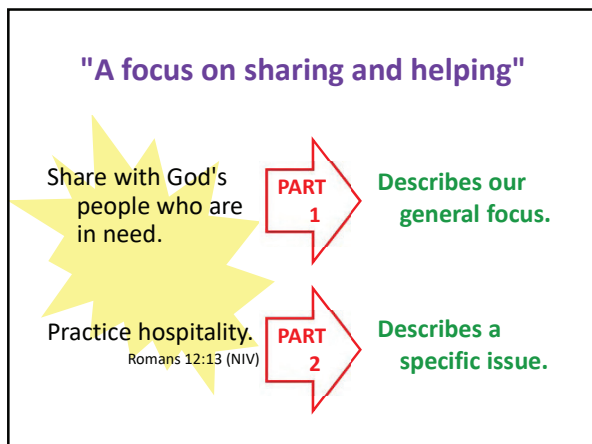
"Love Without Hypocrisy"



Today we begin to look at Romans 12:13

> The final instruction directed toward <
 > our Christian family (in vs. 10-13) <

Share with God's people who are in need.
 Practice hospitality.
 Romans 12:13 (NIV)



WHO DOES IT REFER TO?

Important!

[This is **NOT** an instruction for interacting with **UNSAVED** people.]

You will have to look elsewhere in Scripture to find out what responsibilities you have toward those who reject God.



WHO DOES IT REFER TO?

Important!

This IS an instruction for interacting with SAVED people.

It describes the attitude we are to have toward other Christians:

"We are family, and we take care of each other."

IT HAS TO DO WITH SHARING, NOT FREE HANDOUTS

[IT'S JUST LIKE PAUL SAID:]

Right now you have plenty and can help them. Then at some other time they can share with you when you need it. In this way, everyone's needs will be met. 2 Cor. 8:14 (NLT)

NOTE THE DIFFERENCE

- ⊘ **HANDOUTS:** ONE DIRECTION
- ✓ **SHARING:** BOTH DIRECTIONS

Our theme verse also tells us who it refers to!

Share with **God's people** who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13 (NIV)

★ **But who are "God's people"?** ★


"GOD'S PEOPLE"

Different ways this is translated:

- ✓ **Most translations** use the word "saints."
- ✓ **A few translations** use other phrases, such as:
 - God's people
 - The Lord's people
 - Fellow Christians


WHY?

The word "SAINT" (in the Bible)



- ✓ All it means is "someone who is holy." (The same word is used to describe the Holy Spirit.)
- ✓ When describing people, it simply referred to followers of Jesus.
- ✓ It does NOT refer to a special class of "super-spiritual" dead people who you can pray to!


The word "SAINT" (in the Bible)



- ✓ When the apostles wrote "to the saints," they were writing to living followers of Jesus!


To the saints in Ephesus, ...
Ephes. 1:1b (NIV)

The word "SAINT" (in the Bible)



- ✓ Many of these *living* followers of Jesus were "new-borns" who needed to grow up. They were not "super-spiritual"!
- ✓ **TODAY:** If we used the word "SAINT" the way the BIBLE does, it would refer to us – you and me (as long as we aren't fakes).

The word "SAINT" (in the Bible)



THEN WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA THAT "SAINTS" WERE SUPER-SPIRITUAL DEAD PEOPLE?
... PEOPLE WE MAKE STATUES OF, AND PRAY TO?

- ✓ **HINT: IT WASN'T GOD!!!!**
- ✓ Time for a history lesson...

[HISTORY LESSON, SIMPLIFIED]

In the early church...

People in the church tended to follow Jesus, not just "go to church."

They knew that repentance and obedience were part of what it meant to "have faith in Jesus."

When persecution arose, it would keep the number of fakes to a minimum.

All of the believers were called "saints."

[HISTORY LESSON, SIMPLIFIED]

In the 4th century...

For political purposes, Christianity became the favored "religion" * of the empire.

As it became popular to "join the church," the number of fakes increased greatly.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT A "CHRISTIAN" IS, BUT I JUST BECAME ONE!

* (It became a "RELIGION" – as opposed to a living relationship with Jesus.)

[HISTORY LESSON, SIMPLIFIED]

As time progressed...

It was only *after* this fakeness increased, that people began to give "special status" to Christians who had died in the past.

That way, people could call themselves "Christians," even though they acted nothing like the Christians of the past.

I SURE DON'T LIVE LIKE THEY DID. THEY WERE "SAINTS"; BUT I'M JUST A "CHRISTIAN"!

[HISTORY LESSON, SIMPLIFIED]

Eventually...

It was just a matter of time before word "saint" was no longer used to describe "normal Christians"... and became associated with all kinds of superstitions and religious activities.

I'M GLAD I DON'T HAVE TO BE "SPIRITUAL" LIKE THEY WERE!

LET'S BUILD STATUES AND COLLECT "RELICS" OF THEM!

LET'S PRAY TO THEM!

★ **THE BIG ISSUE ...** ★

About GOD GOD didn't change the definition of "saint."
GOD didn't revise the concept of "normal Christianity."

About YOU IF YOU ARE A NORMAL CHRISTIAN – as the Bible describes the concept – THEN YOU ARE A SAINT!
IF YOU AREN'T A SAINT – as the Bible uses the word – THEN YOU AREN'T SAVED!

Your Mission...

FIND OUT WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS...
THEN YOU WON'T BE LED ASTRAY BY FALSE TEACHINGS!

Share with God's people = "THE SAINTS" who are in need.
Practice hospitality.
Romans 12:13 (NIV)

★ THIS VERSE APPLIES TO ALL OF US WHO ARE NOT FAKES! ★

Credits

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Your Mission...

**"Share with God's people who are in need.
Practice hospitality."**

Romans 12:13

"God's people" = "the saints"

Most translations have: **"Share with the saints..."**

Many people have a false understanding about the word "saint," based on superstition, rather than the Bible. A few translations use phrases like "God's people," to accurately convey what the verse says, without the potential misunderstanding.

***"SAINT" - A CONCEPT THAT HAS
BEEN GREATLY DISTORTED***

The word "saint" simply means "holy one"!

- In the Bible, it referred to *all* followers of Jesus - *anyone* who was saved, *all* who had the Holy Spirit living in them. *If this word does not apply to you, then you are not saved.*
- It *never* referred to a special class of "super-spiritual" Christians! (That idea was invented a few centuries later.)
- The same N.T. Greek word is used to describe the *Holy* Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is in a person (= when he is saved), he becomes a holy person (= "saint"). In the early church, it was *normal* for Christians to address each other with this term!

How the Bible uses the word "saint" (as applied to people)

- All the Christians who lived in a locality. Examples: at Jerusalem (Acts 9:13); at Rome (Romans 1:7); etc.
- Christians living in different communities, who could help each other when in need (Romans 15:25-26); or send greetings to each other (Philippians 4:21-22).
- In the end times: God's people who have been (or will be) persecuted and killed (Revelation 13:7, 10; 18:24); God's people who will participate in judging the world and angels (1 Corinthians 6:2-3; Jude 1:14-15).

INSTRUCTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT: SELECTED VERSES FOR "SAINTS" (I.E., CHRISTIANS)

What God does for "saints"

- God has entrusted to us the truth of "the faith" (Jude 1:3).
- The Holy Spirit prays on our behalf (Romans 8:26-27); our own prayers are like incense in God's presence (Revelation 5:8).
- God gives people gifts so that they can build up the "saints" (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Things we should do for other "saints"

- Share with those who are in need (Romans 12:13); examples (1 Corinthians 16:1; 2 Corinthians 8:4; 9:1,12 + context).
- Pray for them (Ephesians 6:18). [Not the same as praying to them - a superstitious practice invented centuries later!]

About our own attitude, as "saints"

- How to respond to suffering and persecution: focus on Jesus (Hebrews 3:1); be faithful and endure (Revelation 13:10).
- Remember that sin is *not* an option! (Ephesians 5:3-7)