

# LOVE

## Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

### 69 – Part 2 of "Conclusion"

**LAST WEEK:**

## THE BEAUTY OF "COMMITMENT LOVE"

- **Giving meaning and value** to all other legitimate types of love.
- **Exposing the horribleness** of distorted, fake "love," as well as all "non-love."

## "COMMITMENT LOVE"!

- ✓ A reflection of God's own love toward us.
- ✓ Remaining (continuing, enduring), regardless of the response of others.
- ✓ Striving for the good of others, regardless of who they are.

**WITHOUT IT, EVERYTHING ELSE LOSES  
ITS MEANING AND VALUE.**

## "COMMITMENT LOVE"!

★ **THIS is the love described in  
Romans 12:9-21!** ★

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Romans 12:9 (NIV)

**INFLUENCING  
OUR ATTITUDE**

**INFLUENCING  
OUR ACTIONS**

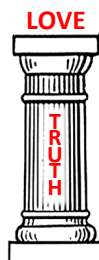
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21 (NIV)

## "COMMITMENT LOVE"!

**BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF TRUTH:  
ROMANS 1-11**

- The complete sinfulness of humans (even "good" humans); our inability to save ourselves.
- The supreme love and mercy of God; his ability to save us.
- The way that God's sovereignty and human responsibility work together.

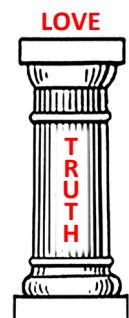



**THE FOUNDATION OF TRUTH:  
ROMANS 1-11**

Based on this foundation,  
**THERE IS ONLY ONE  
LEGITIMATE RESPONSE...**  
and it's described in  
**ROMANS 12:1-2!**


HOW SHOULD I  
RESPOND TO THIS  
TRUTH?

FIND OUT IN  
ROMANS 12:1-2!






**RESPONDING  
To TRUTH**



(A SUMMARY)

- **ROMANS 12:1** – The only legitimate response: Offering yourself 100% to God.
- **ROMANS 12:2** – How to do it: A renewed mind.
- **ROMANS 12:3+** – Actions that flow from a renewed mind.

**LOVE**



# 2

# QUESTIONS

About:

**RESPONDING TO THIS ISSUE.**

[Q. #1]



**WHO ARE YOU GOING TO LISTEN TO?**



**THE  
WORLD**

- The world downplays the need for the truth and/or the response.

**WE JUST  
NEED LOVE!**


**ROMANS 12:1 IS  
FOR FANATICS!**

**GOD**


- God gives us Romans 12:1 to show us our need.

**I HAVE GIVEN YOU  
MY WORD... YOU  
NEED TO ACCEPT  
AND OBEY IT!**

[Q. #2]



**IF THIS IS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE RESPONSE,**



**THEN WHY...**

- ✓ Does God have to tell it to us?
- ✓ Doesn't it just come naturally?

- **Before people are saved:**  
... they spend a lifetime learning SINFUL responses.
- **People who are "newborn" to salvation:**  
... will want to do right, but need to know what "right" is!  
... will need to be taught more clearly the difference between right and wrong.  
... (once taught) will recognize it as OBVIOUS!

**ROMANS 12:1 – The ONLY LEGITIMATE RESPONSE**

to such a great love from God.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1 (NIV11)

When we consider all that chapters 1-11 teach us (= truth, facts):

**Nothing else makes sense!**

**BASED ON THE FACTS, WHAT MUST YOU DO?**

Therefore, ... in view of God's mercy, ...

Romans 12:1a (NIV11)

Because of the FACTS of chapters 1-11.

... I urge you... to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, ...

Romans 12:1b (NIV11)

This is what you need to do.

## Offer your bodies? **YES!**

(THIS VERSE SAYS SOMETHING SIMILAR...)

You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your **body**.

1 Cor. 6:19b-20 (NLT)

**But it actually refers to your whole person!**

(AS JESUS SAID...)

And you must love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, all your **soul**, all your **mind**, and all your **strength**.

Mark 12:30 (NLT)

## IS THERE ANY OTHER OPTION? **NO!!!**

... this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1d (NIV11)

( Any other response is **false** and **improper**! )

**YOUR ONLY OPTION:**

**"OFFER YOUR BODY AS A LIVING SACRIFICE!"**

( = all that is a part of you! )

★ **But there is ONE qualification!** ★

★ **It must be a sacrifice that is HOLY AND PLEASING TO GOD!** ★

...a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God ...

Romans 12:1c (NIV11)

( This means living a life that honors God. )

**HOW CAN WE DO THAT?**



**Verse 2 tells us HOW!**

**To live a life that honors God:**

**We must start with the MIND!**

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV11)

**You offer your BODY (= all that you are) by starting with your MIND!**

⇒ This takes us back not only to **FACTS** and **TRUTH**, but to the very foundation of **HOW WE THINK!**

**To have a MIND that enables GOD-HONORING LIVING ...**

Do not conform ...

Romans 12:2a (NIV11)

( We must **STOP** one way of thinking. )

...be transformed by the renewing of your **mind**.

Romans 12:2b (NIV11)

( We must **START** another way of thinking. )



**ONLY THEN ...**



**ONLY THEN will we be capable of understanding and doing the will of God.**

Do not conform ...

Romans 12:2a (NIV11)

...be transformed ...

Romans 12:2b (NIV11)

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2c (NIV11)

**You will be able to evaluate and confirm what God's will is!**



This will influence what you do, and will result in the LOVE we have learned about.

Our **ACTIONS** will be determined by our **THOUGHTS**.

The only realistic response to what God has done (chapters 1-11) is to ...

- Offer yourselves to God.  
You do this by ...
- ✓ Changing the way you think,
  - ✓ Learning what God's will is, and ...
- DOING GOD'S WILL!

**THE REST OF CHAPTER 12  
SHOWS US HOW TO DO THIS!**

# 2 OBSERVATIONS

About:

**WHY THIS IS POSSIBLE.**

[ Practical ways that God's sovereignty and human responsibility interact! (= Part of the FACT FOUNDATION of Romans 1-11.) ]

## [ #1 – Focusing on GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY. ]

⇒ This ability to do the will of God was made possible by God himself! Romans 7-8 show us:

- ✓ Our complete inability – when relying on our own power.
- ✓ Our complete ability – when controlled by the Spirit of God!

IT'S MADE  
POSSIBLE BY  
GOD!

AS SHOWN BY THE FACTS  
OF ROMANS 7 AND 8!

## [ #2 – Focusing on OUR RESPONSIBILITY. ]

⇒ We must learn to do the will of God! The rest of the book of Romans show what we must learn!

- "Newborn" Christians don't know these things, and need to learn them.
- The rest of us need reminders, every time the world begins to confuse our thinking.

GOD SHOWS  
US HOW TO DO  
HIS WILL!

READ THE REST OF THE  
BOOK OF ROMANS!

## ROMANS – the rest of Chapter 12

Offering yourself to God, with a willingness to do his will... THIS WILL RESULT IN:

### ACTION

- You will use your abilities for the good of others – Romans 12:3-8.  
(The focus here is on interacting with other Christians.)

### LOVE

- You will do all things with unhypocritical, sincere love – Romans 12:9-21.  
(The focus here expands to all people.)

THIS HAS BEEN  
OUR FOCUS

## ROMANS – after Chapter 12

Chapters 13-15a – A focus on LOVE in two difficult issues.

Chapters 15b-16 – Paul's own expressions of LOVE to other people (both at Rome and elsewhere).

ALL of this is made possible because of:



The FACT foundation of chapters 1-11.  
&  
The RIGHT RESPONSE to those facts.

**ROMANS 13+****LOVE IN TWO  
DIFFICULT ISSUES**

[ Paul focuses on some specific  
issues related to love. ]

**1. Our relationship to government – chapter 13.**

(It has a God-given purpose; even though it may sometimes be the cause of the injustice mentioned in Romans 12:19-20).

**2. Our relationship to weaker, "newborn" Christians – chapters 14-15a.**

(These people are working on developing "renewed" minds – Romans 12:2 – but they aren't there yet.)

In the middle of these difficult issues,  
Paul reminds us:

★ **This LOVE is our #1 "debt" to all people.** ★

Let no debt remain outstanding, except  
the continuing debt to love one  
another, for he who loves his  
fellowman has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8 (NIV)

▪ **LOVE:** This is a debt we will never cease to have.

★ **This LOVE is our #1 "debt" to all people.** ★

▪ **TEMPORARY DEBT:**

Pay it and it will be done.

Let no debt remain outstanding,  
except the continuing debt to love one  
another, ...

Romans 13:8a (NIV)

▪ **PERMANENT DEBT:**

Pay it and you will still owe it ... forever.

We have learned about  
unhypocritical, sincere love  
in Romans 12:9-21.

(Our study has come to an end.)

**SO WHERE DO WE GO  
FROM HERE?**

★ Let us encourage each other to **APPLY** what we learned to our lives! ★

**So...**

★ We will complete this series on  
**"UNHYPOCRITICAL, SINCERE LOVE"** ★

by repeating what Paul tells us in  
**Romans 13:8:**

A REMINDER OF THE  
EVERLASTING DEBT THAT  
ALL PEOPLE HAVE  
TOWARD OTHERS...

A DEBT THAT ONLY  
GOD'S PEOPLE WILL  
WILLINGLY AND  
JOYFULLY PAY ...

**Your Mission...**

**PAY YOUR DEBT OF LOVE!**

Let no debt remain outstanding, except  
the continuing debt to love one  
another, for he who loves his  
fellowman has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8 (NIV)

If you have become part of God's family, paying  
this debt will be a lifelong – and eternal – joy.

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# Your Mission...

"... the continuing debt to love one another..."

Romans 13:8

## LOVE - OUR *ETERNAL* DEBT

— A DEBT that's *impossible* to pay off!

Our main emphasis here is on love for *people*; but love for *God* is also part of our eternal debt - Matthew 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31. (Only a few verses related to love for God are included.)

### ***THIS OBLIGATION IS NOTHING NEW... YET IT IS NEW!***

#### **It's *not* a new command!**

- It was taught in the Old Testament - Leviticus 19:18b; and was known by the Jews in Jesus' day - Mark 12:32-33; Luke 10:27.
- Jesus taught it - Matthew 19:17-19.
- It's a command that the people tended to distort (as people do today); and Jesus had to clarify what it meant - Matthew 5:43-48; see also Luke 10:29-37.

#### **Yet Jesus gives it to us as a *new* command!**

- We have a *new motivation* for doing it: We are to love others as *Jesus* loved us, not just love others "as *ourselves*" - John 13:34; 15:12, 17; 1 John 3:16; 4:11 (as *God* loved us).
- We have a *new power* to do it, power from *God* - 1 John 4:7-12; also Galatians 5:22; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 4:9; 2 Timothy 1:7. (In the Old Testament: People needed hearts changed by God, so that they would love him - Deuteronomy 30:6.)

- This love is evidence that we are part of a *new family*, the family of God - John 13:35; 1 John 3:11-15, 17-19; 4:7b, 12.
- Scripture gives us no additional "new" command that goes beyond Jesus' "new" command - 1 John 3:11, 23; 2 John 1:5; see also 1 John 2:7-8.

This obligation is for *all* people.

The sinful nature prevents unsaved people from fulfilling it.

### ***ABOUT THIS OBLIGATION TO LOVE***

- The Old Testament Law is summarized by love, and is fulfilled by love - Matthew 22:40; Galatians 5:13-14; James 2:8-11; Romans 13:9-10 (it does nothing contrary to the moral law).
- Our obedience to Jesus is evidence that we love Jesus - John 14:15; see also 1 John 5:3-4 (love for God).
- If this love is in us, we won't be preoccupied with the sins of others - 1 Peter 4:8. (Love forgives and doesn't focus on the sin.)
- Love begins in our Christian family; but it is to extend out to all people - 1 John 4:11, 19-21; Romans 12:9-21; Ephesians 4:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 3:12.
- Our love must grow in intensity, and God makes it possible - 1 Peter 1:22 (it's growth is associated with obeying God's truth); 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 4:9-10.
- We must encourage each other to grow in love - Hebrews 10:24; 1 Thessalonians 4:10b.
- When love grows within our Christian family, we can thank *God* for it - 2 Thessalonians 1:3 (an example).