

Romans 12:9-13

In our passage today Paul begins with his 25 exhortations that will carry us through verse 21.

He begins with the exhortation to _____. It is that notable Greek word agape. Which is a love focused entirely on.....

Interestingly, Paul doesn't define the word love but heads quickly to how this love _____. Let me add here, if there's no evidence of this love, there's no following of Jesus. This love is genuine, sincere. It is not hypocritical.

Genuine love from a biblical perspective _____ evil. The truth is that all evil is an affront to an assault upon the very nature and character of God. (Sproul). Mere abstinence from evil is not enough, we must regard evil with horror.

Another exhortation, revealing our biblical love is that we must cling to what is good. We are to adhere ourselves to what is inherently good.

Verse 10 reveals how believers are to relate to other members of the body of Christ. Being kindly affectionate to them has this thought.....

This leads to believers being quick to prefer others to themselves. We should be alert, looking for ways to acknowledge the contributions of others rather than waiting for others to commend us.

In verse 11 Paul reminds us that we are not to be slothful regarding our pursuit of holiness. The word "business" in some translations throws us off track....

Verse 12 is vital to the believer's life regarding her HOPE. Hope is one of the more important aspects of our lives, given the amount of trial and suffering we endure. That very hope gives us what we need to persevere during trials.

Paul highlights the absolute necessity of a follower of Christ's prayer life. Our prayers are the very glue that connects these exhortations. We must be strong and steadfast in praying. If you're failing and doubting God's goodness, his providence that reveals a negligent prayer life which might be an indication you have no genuine faith.

Verse 13 focuses again on love. We are to be known for helping meet the needs of others, even becoming partners in their needs, including hospitality.