

Aug 19, 2018



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
Share Christ's love with another

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**  
Lord, remind me today that while I was a sinner You embraced me with Your deep and unconditional love and brought me into the fellowship of Your grace. Lead me to someone I can love as You loved me.

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*  
**(John 15:12 NKJV)**

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Oct 22, 2017)*

**Series: Justice in the  
New Testament**

**UNIT: Paul Teaches about  
New Life in Christ**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Practicing Godly Values  
(Col 3:5-17)**

## Practicing Genuine Love Romans 12:9-21

### Aim and Application of the Lesson

The admonishes and shows us a clear picture of how we, as Christians, should always be **Practicing Genuine Love**. The study's aim is to accept God's Word as the only reliable source of instruction in living the Christian life. The study's application is to set our minds on living according to God's Word.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### Lesson Introduction and Background

This text follows Paul's great exhortation of Romans 12:1-2 for believers to become living sacrifices, worshipping God by being transformed in spiritual renewal, refusing to be pressed into the mold of this world. So what follows is all about living out this overarching commitment. There are three exhortations in Romans 12:9 that flow from this decisive surrender of our lives to Christ. The first exhortation is to exercise genuine love. We are told to practice love "without dissimulation." "Dissimulation" is a word that points to hypocrisy and fakery rather than genuineness and sincerity. Our love is to be real and authentic. Romans 12 outlines many aspects of genuine love as it is to be shown to others; it includes kindness (vs. 10), giving and hospitality (vs. 13), seeking to bless even those who persecute us (vs. 14), showing concern about the ups and downs of others (vs. 15), striving for harmony with others, and, finally, seeking peace, not vengeance, with our enemies (vss. 17-21). All these evidences of love are to manifest the love of God outward, to be a blessing to others, even those who have not been a blessing to us. That is true, biblical love. The believer's love is motivated by the presence of the Lord Jesus within. It is not motivated by what someone deserves or earns based on their treatment of us. Going along with this is another commitment—an abhorrence of evil. How can we become loving people if we are not turning away from evil? Evil actions are injurious to others. Evil is not an abstract idea but describes all the ways that people harm one another in a fallen world. We are to abhor any and all of those ways in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We are to resist unloving behavior and practice genuine love, even toward those who may themselves be guilty of unloving actions and behavior. A third commitment is to cleave to what is good. The term for "cleave" is a strong term, meaning to hold fast. It is used literally of adhesives and figuratively of powerful commitments like marriage (Mark 10:7) and joining with the body of Christ (Acts 9:26). Romans 12:21 adds that by holding to that which is good, we are actually able to overcome evil. All three commitments fit together in our lives so that we can enter and engage the world around us with a powerful and loving spirit. Evil and unloving behavior abounds in our world. We see everything from cases of abuse within families and bullying in schools to the larger systemic problems of international terrorism, human trafficking, and the cruelty of ethnic cleansing. There seems to be no end to evil. The world is crying out for love— genuine love. Where does it come from? It must come from Christian people, those who surrender their lives to Jesus and hear and do what He has commanded. Such love includes an active seeking out of opportunities to make a difference in people's lives. Such an effort will make an impact on the world. Genuine love is a great contrast to what we see in this world. May God energize our love!

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Living a Life of Love (Rom 12:9-15)**

#### *Love without hypocrisy (9)*

- Love by putting God's word into practice (Ezek 33:31)
- Love by being approved by God and by seeking to please Him (1 Thess 2:3-6)
- Love with a pure heart and in sincerity (1 Tim 1:5)
- Love by faith accompanied by action (James 2:15-17)
- Love not with words, but in truth and with action (1 John 3:18-20)
- Love without deceit (1 Peter 2:1)
- True love has no sin or deceit associated with it (Ps 32:2)

#### *Honor others (10)*

- Honor others by serving them (Matt 20:26-28)
- Honor others by seeking their interests (Phil 2:3-4)
- Honor others by giving them honor they are due (Rom 13:7)
- An example of honoring others is honoring parents (Eph 6:2)
- Honor others by welcoming them in the Lord with great joy (Phil 2:28-30)
- Honor those whose work is preaching and teaching (1 Tim 5:17)

#### *Serve others (11-12)*

- Serve others in love (Gal 5:13)
- Serve wholeheartedly (Eph 6:7)
- Serve others with the gifts God has provided (1 Peter 4:10)
- Serving others makes one great (Mark 10:43-44)
- Serve others by trying to build them up (Rom 15:1-3)
- Serve others by carrying their burdens (Gal 6:2)

#### *Help others (13)*

- Help others by having regard for the weak (Ps 41:1-3)
- Help others by sharing possessions (Acts 4:32-35)
- Help others by materially blessing through contributions to the poor (Rom 15:25-27)
- Help others by giving of oneself first to God (2 Cor 8:1-5)
- Help others by supplying their needs (2 Cor 9:12-13)
- Help others by continually being consistent in help (Heb 6:10)

#### *Bless others (14-15)*

- Bless others by sharing with them (Heb 13:16)
- Bless others by taking advantage of every opportunity to do good to all people (Gal 6:10)
- Bless others by not expecting repayment (Matt 5:44-48)
- Bless others by doing to them as you would want to be done to you (Luke 6:28-31)
- Bless others by being kind to them (1 Thess 5:15)
- Bless others by repaying insults with good (1 Peter 3:9)

### **Living a Life of Peace (Rom 12:16-21)**

#### *Peace through humility (16)*

- We should take the example of Jesus and submit ourselves to humbleness (Phil 2:5-7)
- Humbleness is a requirement of God (Mic 6:8)
- Those who are humble enjoy the presence of God (Isa 57:15)
- Humbleness means to be submissive to God and those in authority over us (1 Peter 5:5)
- Saints should live with humility (Eph 4:2)

#### *Peace through unity (16)*

- Unity through God composing the members of the body (1 Cor 12:24-28)
- Unity in Christ (Phil 2:1-4)
- Unity through baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:12-13)
- Unity into one faith (Eph 4:4-6)
- Unity that lets the world know that Jesus was sent by God (John 17:23)
- Unity through the Church (Eph 4:10-13)
- Unity through love (Col 3:14)

#### *Peace through peacefulness (17-18)*

- Peaceful by aiming for peace (2 Cor 13:11)
- Peaceful through promotion of peace (Prov 12:20)
- Peaceful through peacemakers (Matt 5:9)
- Peaceful through overcoming the world (John 16:33)
- Peaceful through being controlled by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:6)

#### *Peace through not seeking revenge (19)*

- Do not seek revenge, but love your neighbor (Lev 19:18)
- Do not seek revenge or try to pay back (Prov 24:29)
- Do not seek revenge because it is God's role to avenge (Deut 32:35)
- Do not seek revenge because God is a jealous and avenging God (Nah 1:2-3)
- Do not seek revenge because God does the judging (Heb 10:30-31)
- Do not seek revenge, instead bless those who have harmed you (1 Peter 3:9)

#### *Peace through loving enemies (20-21)*

- Love enemies by praying for them (Matt 5:43-45)
- Love enemies by doing good to them (Luke 6:35-36)
- Love enemies by loving them as we love ourselves (Rom 13:8-10)
- Love enemies by serving them (Gal 5:13-14)
- Love enemies as we have been taught by God (1 Thess 4:9)
- Love enemies by defending them and sharing with them (1 John 3:16-19)