

Romans – Gospel of God Exalted

Facilitated by Sister Patricia Weaver

Thursday April 17, 2025

Memory Verse

Romans 12:10 NASB95 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.

Supernatural Living—Part 1

Romans 12: 10-13 NLT-¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Romans 12: 10-13 NASB95 - 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

POINT 2 - DUTY TO THE FAMILY OF GOD

BE DEVOTED IN BROTHERLY LOVE (12:10a)

Paul's list of "family" obligations begins with the command: **Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.**

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Be devoted to and **brotherly love** carry synonymous ideas. **Devoted** means (friend, friendly; friendship love) and (natural family love, which is not based on personal attraction or desirability). **Brotherly love** (to have tender affection) to have a loving affection for **one another** in the family of God like a son or daughter or having a relation of a child to a parent.

Devoted ... brotherly love is one of the marks by which the world will know that we belong to Christ. “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (**John 13:35**). This love is not optional for believers. It not only is required but is inescapable. In fact John has declared, If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? ²¹ And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers. (**4:20-21**).

Brotherly love reflects the nature of Christians. That is why Paul could say, “Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are *taught by God to love one another*” (**1 Thess. 4:9**). For the very reason that God is our common heavenly Father, love for each other should be as natural and normal as family members’ affectionate love for each other.

The apostle John forcefully affirms that truth. “¹⁰So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.” ¹⁷ If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. ¹⁹ Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. (**1 John 3:10, 17–19 NLT**).

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PREFER ONE ANOTHER IN HONOR (12:10b)

If we are truly “devoted to one another in brotherly love,” it almost goes without saying that we will **give preference to one another in honor**. The virtue here is humility, not thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to think (Rom. 12:3). It is doing “nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind,” regarding “one another as more important than” oneself (**Phil. 2:3**).

Give preference has the basic meaning of going before, or leading. But the idea here is not that of putting ourselves before others in regard to importance or worth but the very opposite idea of giving **honor** to fellow believers by putting them first.

To **honor** is not to flatter, to give hypocritical praise in hope of having the compliment returned or of gaining favor with the one honored. Again, the very opposite is in mind. To **honor** is to show genuine appreciation and admiration for **one another** in the family of God. We are to be quick to show respect, quick to acknowledge the accomplishments of others, quick to demonstrate genuine love by *not* being jealous or envious, which have no part in love.

DO NOT LAG IN DILIGENCE (12:11a)

Not lagging behind in diligence could be rendered, “not lazy in zeal and intensity.” Paul declares that the Christian who has the gift of ruling, or leading, should exercise it with diligence (Rom. 12: 8).

In the context of Romans 12, **diligence** refers to whatever believers do in their supernatural living. Whatever is worth doing in the Lord’s service is worth doing with enthusiasm and care. Jesus told His disciples that He “must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work”

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(John 9:4). The Lord knew His time of ministry was limited and that every moment in His Father's service on earth should count for the most possible. Paul admonished believers in the Galatian churches: "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith" (**Gal. 6:10; cf. 2 Thess. 3:13**).

There is no room for sloth and indolence in the Lord's work. "Whatever your hand finds to do," Solomon counseled, "verily, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol [the grave]" (**Eccles. 9:10**). Whatever we do for the Lord must be done in this present life.

Slothfulness in Christian living not only prevents good from being done but allows evil to prosper. "Therefore, be careful how you walk," Paul charged the Ephesians, "not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil" (**Eph. 5:15–16**).

The Lord rewards those who serve Him with **diligence**. "God is not unjust so as to *forget* your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (**Heb. 6:10–12**).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Explain what it means to be devoted to one another in brotherly love: How can you apply it to your life?**

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2. What does it mean to not lag behind in diligence? Give Example

3. What stood out to you in this section of the lesson?

BE FERVENT IN SPIRIT (12:11b)

Whereas diligence pertains mainly to action, being **fervent in spirit** pertains to attitude. Literally, means to boil, the idea here is not of being overheated to the point of boiling over and out of control but, like a steam engine, of having sufficient heat to produce the energy necessary to get the work done. That principle is reflected in the life of Henry Martyn, the tireless missionary to India, whose heart's desire was to "burn out for God."

Most people could make a sizable list of their failures that were simply casualties to lack of enthusiasm, and commitment. Fervency requires resolve and persistence, not mere good intention. "Let us not lose heart in doing good," Paul admonishes, "for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary" (**Gal. 6:9**).

No believer in the early church was more **fervent in spirit**, in the work of the Lord than Paul himself. "Therefore, I run in such a way, as not without aim," he said; "I box in such a way, as not beating the air" (**1 Cor. 9:26**); "And for this purpose also I labor" (**Col. 1:29**).

SERVE THE LORD (12:11c)

Like fervency in spirit, **serving the Lord** has to do with perspective and priority. Everything we do should, first of all, be consistent with God's Word and, second,

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be truly in His service and to His glory. Strict devotion to the Lord would eliminate a great deal of fruitless church activity.

Above all else, Paul considered himself a bondslave of Jesus Christ. The service of a bondslave, whose very reason for existence is to do his master's will. It is with that description he first identifies himself in this letter (Rom. 1:1), as well as in Philippians (1:1) and Titus (1:1). Yet we do not serve the Lord in our own power any more than we came to Him in our own power. Our supreme purpose is to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, and our power to fulfill that service is from Him. "For this purpose, also I labor," Paul testified, "striving according to His power, which mightily works within me" (**Col. 1:29**).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What does it mean to be Fervent in spirit?**
- 2. Explain what it means to serve the Lord? How do you apply it to your life?**
- 3. What was most meaningful to you in this lesson?**

CLOSING PRAYER