

Romans 12:9-13, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Love Without Hypocrisy.

Romans 12:9

What does the Word of God mean when it commands God's people, "Let love be without hypocrisy"? (Rom. 12:9). Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 again. Hypocritical love is saying, "I love you," but then being impatient, unkind, jealous, or arrogant (1 Cor. 13:4). Hypocritical love is saying, "I love you," but secretly keeping a list of past offenses, for true love does not take into account a wrong suffered (1 Cor. 13:5). And love that has an expiration date is hypocritical, because true love never fails. "Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth" (1 John 3:18).
Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

☐ Tuesday - Hate Sin.

Romans 12:9

Sin is like a wild beast crouching at the door; it cannot be tamed (Gen. 4:7). But so many Christians, after putting off gross outward sins, nevertheless maintain a menagerie of little pet sins, thinking he/she can keep them on a leash under control: a prideful heart, a critical tongue, impatience, anger, worry, greed, gossip, lust, envy, over-sensitivity. Yet pet sins, fed regularly, grow up to be life-dominating sins which cannot be controlled. God hates pet sins as much as gross outward sin (Mt. 5:22-23, 27-28), and we must hate them too, if we hope to be free from them. And so, this commandment is repeated in Scripture: "Hate evil, you who love the Lord" (Psa. 97:10); "Hate evil, love good" (Amos 5:15); and again here in Romans 12, "Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good" (Rom. 12:9). Dear child of God, if you love God, you cannot be neutral about your sin. No, you must hate it with a holy hatred. All sin is an abomination to God (Prov. 6:16-19).
Read Proverbs 8:13

☐ Wednesday - Love One Another.

Romans 12:10

Jesus said, "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35); that is, the world will see the authenticity of Christ's work in His people by the way we love our Christian brothers and sisters. Therefore, Paul writes, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor ... contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality" (Rom. 12:10, 13). For "we know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren" (1 John 3:14).
Read 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 4:20-21

☐ Thursday - Adding Definition.

Romans 12:11

God's Word encourages the believer to be "not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord" (Rom. 12:11). The dictionary defines "diligence" as careful and persistent work or effort. The word "fervent" is defined as having or displaying a passionate intensity. "Serving" is defined as performing duties or services for another person. Let us therefore not be Christians in name only, but let these things define your Christian walk today.
Read James 2:14-17

☐ Friday - Rejoicing in Hope.

Romans 12:12

The Christian should be "rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation" (Rom. 12:12), yet without the first of these we can never do the second. Read Psalm 71:5, 14; 146:5

☐ Saturday - Devoted to Prayer.

Romans 12:12

Often we pray just when we want something, but God wants a continual dialogue with you, Christian. And so He says, "pray *without ceasing*" (1 Thess. 5:17), "With all prayer and petition pray *at all times*" (Eph. 6:18), "in *everything* by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6), and here in Romans 12, be "*devoted to prayer*" (Rom. 12:12). Dear Christian, call upon God the first thing each morning. And when you are finished praying, leave the phone off the hook, so that you can keep an open line to God all day long. Read Psalm 5:3, 141:2