

4. Imperatives of Sanctification in Romans pt3

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I. Count yourself united to Christ

II. Do not let sin reign

III. Present yourself to God

A. Rom 6.13

B. Rom 12-16

1. The prism of 12.1-2 guides us to the idea that the presentation to God for righteous obedience comes to expression in many concrete ways. The first is humble love.

2. Present yourself to acts of humble family love

12.3-9: not self centered but serving one another in the one body

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned (12.3). Additionally, understand that the bond with Christ includes others: **so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another (12.5).** The NIV has **in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.** Note how the notion of love that is already present becomes explicit in 12.9, **Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.** Paul speaks of love in a compounding way in 12.10a: **Love one another with brotherly affection.** The love is a one-anothering kind but it is also an affection that has family overtones.

In 12.10b-13, the apostle unpacks the meaning of love: **Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.** Humble family love is to be without slothfulness, but serving, giving, showing hospitality. It is critical to remember that the essence of hospitality is making others feel welcome as you work at getting past the strangeness; sharing of your thoughts, sharing of yourself (this essence is specifically Christlike, 15.7: **Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God)**

Love is to include opponents and enemies (12.14-21).

The humble side of love involves submission to human authority (13.1-7).

Humble love means that you present yourself to holy deeds, to righteous conduct, to all of God's commandments (all are summarized in the Ten, the Ten are summarized in two, and the two are summarized in one word: love). **Owe no one anything, except to love each other...¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law (Rom 13.8-10).**

Notably, Paul is continuing his point about the renewing of the mind when he begins with how you think about yourself in 12.3. The testing principle of critical thinking that is vital to finding the will of God therefore applies to the implementation of all the acts of humble family love. Do not think of yourself too highly or first, but test your outlook and how you live to discover that which is acceptable to God in fulfilling your debt to the Holy Spirit (Rom 8.13). Your obligation to the Spirit particularly includes thoughtful and selfless love as a central goal.

3. Present yourself clothed with Christ: Put on Christ

The renewing of your mind has another important dimension, namely, knowing your place in redemptive history and that that requires you to present yourself to go out into public clothed with Christ, 13.11-14: **Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.**

Trinity 171 expresses an appropriate prayer of presentation, "Be thou my pattern; make me bear, more of thy gracious image here."

4. Present yourself in thought (mindset, renewal) to the opposite of censoriousness

One way to summarize chapter 14 is “freedom in relationships.” Be charitable (loving) by not being judgmental or censorious. Be open to grant Christian liberty on matters like meats offered to idols, holy days, and wine. It takes wisdom (by testing) to discern these things and to be loving no matter which view you hold: to not quarrel with or despise the weak (14.1, 3a), to not judge the strong (14.3b). Both are to be welcoming. Importantly, you ought not go against your conscience (14.23); always remain loyal to your conscience for what is not of faith is sin.

5. Present yourself to actions that build up the family of God in the gospel

15.1-7: We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.³ For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me."⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁷ Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Notice the point of obligation again (to the Spirit and to acts of humble family love by testing to discover the will of God). Since this pertains to all, then we all have the obligation of up building conversation in the things of Scripture. The testing involves mutual interaction.

Also notice the essence of hospitality in the supreme example of our Lord Jesus Christ! His example shows that we do not wait on or complain about what others do not do for us (i.e. why don't people call me, why do I always have to call them; why do I have to be the one to always invite to dinner? Golden rule of love: you want x, then do it for others, for those you want it from. You say, “What if they fail me?” The answer: bear with them, not to please yourself...being self-centered, selfish (and a shellfish locked up in your own thoughts). Instead, welcome as Christ has welcomed you. Accordingly, follow His example of hospitality in its fundamental essence (He welcomed you). Finally have in your mindset the same goal that He had, “Lord enable me to look past myself and to extend myself meaningfully to others, to welcome them to my life, thoughts, person, hopes, dreams, and level of sanctification for improvement by mutual up building....for the glory of God.”

Conclusion

The Holy Spirit's application of the finished work of Christ is *constant, gradual, and certain* in its accomplishment over time by the *power* of grace. Therefore, you have an obligation to the Spirit. Specifically, brothers and sisters, count it wonderfully and marvelously so. Recognizing the true conflict and serious consequences for your life day by day, do not let sin reign over you. Don't let sin trample on you; it need not be the case, it is neither your conqueror nor your master. Then, *stand and run and work* at serving God as those brought from a horrible death to a glorious life. Offer yourself and every part of your body to God as an instrument of righteousness leading to holiness by presenting yourself to loving acts, to be clothed with Christ, to fair mindedness, to building up of the family of God in the gospel for the glory of God.