



Part 3: How To Really Love

In this passage, Paul describes a practical result of believing in God's grace: If I truly believe God is loving and gracious to me, I will naturally be more loving, and gracious to others!

8 ways to love others the way God loves you...

1. Be _____
"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil and cling to what is good." Rom. 12:9

Why does love hate evil? Because evil _____

Reject _____ without rejecting _____

2. Be _____
"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Be quick to honor one another above yourselves." Rom. 12:10

3. Be _____
"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor serving the Lord." Rom. 12:11

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord..." Col. 3:23

4. Be _____
"Be joyful in hope, be patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Rom. 12:12

- Be _____ "...joyful in hope..."
- Be _____ "...patient in affliction..."
- Be _____ "...faithful in prayer..."

5. Be _____
"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Rom. 12:13

6. Be _____
"Bless those who persecute you. Bless and do not curse." Rom. 12:14
Philips translation: "Bless those who try to make your life miserable."

7. Be _____
"Rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn." Rom. 12:15

8. Be _____
"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love." Rom. 12:10

Paul follows all these positive descriptions with one giant "do not"... It's an area that has gotten "religious" people into trouble again and again:

Never respond with _____ or _____
"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath. It is written: 'It is mine to revenge. I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he's thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good." Rom. 12:16-21

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to "take it home": Spend a few minutes every day reading Scripture, praying, and answering thought provoking questions about this weekend's topic!

This week's memory verse:

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is --his good, pleasing and perfect will." Rom. 12:2

Monday

Look back over the message notes. What points were particularly meaningful to you?

Do you ever have any of the misconceptions mentioned in the message about God's will-- that it's a dot, a feeling, or a system? In what ways?

There are so many misleading sources of guidance when it comes to knowing God's will, including the culture; emotions; peer pressure; fads, etc. What is the one sure source?

Read Exodus 23:2 and Romans 12:1,2. How have you at times allowed your conformity to the world change your perception of what is right and wrong?

Read Prov. 3:5,6. Has your own understanding ever led you astray?

Ask God today to help you spend time meditating on and memorizing His Word this week.

Tuesday

Read James 1:22-25. What is the common Bible reading trap that this verse talks about?

How is it possible to study the Bible and not apply it?

Choose one of the topics listed in your "Guidebook for Life" handout, read the verses, and... *ask God to help you apply them today and this week!*

Wednesday

Read Psalm 1. What kind of counsel does the first verse of this Psalm warn against?

Do you ever listen to "ungodly counsel" from people you hear on the radio or in magazines or in your office or family?

What kind of advice have you heard from ungodly counsel?

According to this Psalm, what are the benefits of being rooted in God and His Word?

Ask God to help you filter out all the advice you get through the grid of His Word!

Thursday

Read Galatians 5:1. This was written to Christians who were falling back into a system that rigidly defined God's will as a "dot" and a "system". They believed that they had to perform certain rituals, obey certain teachers, eat a certain diet, to be in the exact center of God's will. Do you ever struggle with the idea that God's will is a "dot"-- that all the other options must be "Plan B"?

What are some of the drawbacks to this approach?

How would you support from Scripture the idea that God's will involves our free choice within the framework of his moral standards and revealed will?

Thank God that He has set you free from slavery! Make wise choices informed by His revealed will in Scripture!

Friday

Read Jeremiah 17:9. How does this verse relate to those who look for "feelings in their heart" to discover God's will?

What is the difference between "feelings" and "being led by the Spirit"?

Read Eph. 5:17,18; 1 Thes. 4:3-6; 1 Thes. 5:16-18; and Matt. 28:18. You may be wondering about God's will for your life; here are some passages that lay out God's will for you in black and white. What do they say?

How does knowing these things are God's will help motivate you?

Ask God for strength from the Holy Spirit to live out these commands in your life!

Saturday

Finish up any devotions you may have missed this week, and memorize that verse on the top of the previous page! *Please pray for the weekend services! Thanks!*

Resources

These are some of the excellent books on this subject. For further study, you may want to investigate them!

Ron Boehm, *If God Has a Plan For My Life, Why Can't I Find It?*

Garry Friesen, *Decision Making and the Will of God*

Bruce Walthe, *Finding the Will of God*