



## INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

### LOVE ONE ANOTHER

#### PASSAGE OVERVIEW

Isn't it nice when things are simple? Jesus summarized the whole Law in two commandments. He said we should love God and love our neighbor. Simple, right? Well, maybe simple, but not easy.

As the Spirit of God instructs us how to live (Rom 12-16) as a result of the salvation that God has wrought for us (Rom 1-11), He tells us to owe no one anything except love. The one who loves another has fulfilled the law. So what does that look like? In the passage for this week, the Spirit gives specific examples from everyday life that draw the picture of a life lived in love for others.

In areas of conscience, where there is no clear command from God, love must reign. Paul uses two examples of tension areas for the early believers: food and special worship days. In both of these areas, he calls them to live so as to honor the Lord, but not to judge others who hold a position that is different from their own.

Our brothers and sisters are of much greater value than our preferences. We must walk in love towards them, even if it means restraining ourselves from enjoying good gifts God has given us, for the sake of giving no offense.

As you read this week, think of other areas that might qualify as areas of conscience, but that have no clear biblical instruction mandating them. Are you living with a clear conscience by faith in these areas? Do you find yourself critiquing those who love and honor God as you do, but who hold to a different position from yours in these areas?

#### READING FOR NEXT WEEK

Romans 13:8-14:23

A living sacrifice is a complete sacrifice.

#### The mercies of God.

1. *Romans 3:23* - All have sinned
2. *Romans 3:24* - Justified by grace, as a gift from God, through Jesus.
3. *Romans 6:23* - Wages of sin is death. Free gift of God is eternal life in Jesus.
4. *Romans 7* - Jesus saved us from the penalty of sin, and rescues us from the power of sin.
5. *Romans 8:1-17* - Life in the Spirit produces intimacy with God.
6. *Romans 8:18-30* - The path through suffering to glory is so worth it.
7. *Romans 8:31-39* - You are more than safe in God's love.
8. *Romans 9-11* - God's unexpected and undeserved mercy, provided in Jesus, displays His glory.

#### I. Comprehensively His. (12:1-2)

#### II. God's gifts - Use them! (12:3-8)

#### III. Relationships: Love genuinely. (12:9-21)

#### IV. Government: Submit. (13:1-7)

Every dimension of life is now lived for Him and by His will's standards.

Spiritually: Our service in the church using our gifts.

Physically: Our life, energy, body is His.

Relationally: Our relationships with others, both friends and haters.

Societally: Our respect of government.

#### How does this apply to me?

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