

Title: Authentic Christianity, Part 2

Passage: Romans 12: 9-21

Summary:

Marks of an Authentic Christian

1. Love that is genuine.
2. Biblical discernment
3. Sincere affections for the body of Christ.
4. Desire to honor others.
5. Passion for serving God.
6. Patience.
7. Generosity and hospitality.
8. Graciousness (v.14)
9. Empathy (v.15)
10. Unity (v.16a)
11. Humility (v.16b)
12. Graceful and Non-revengeful (v. 17-21)

Key Truths:

- Romans 12 concern the traits of an authentic Christian. Not optional but what we need to strive for to be like Jesus.
- At the foot of the cross, we are all the same in need of Christ.
- Biblical Christianity is not about our works but through Jesus Christ. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit working through us that we can live for His glory.
- Prayer: God, give us strength to live our lives that is different from the world.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How is the direction of your life? Where do you need to re-calibrate to be more like Jesus?
- Which of the 12 traits of a Christian will you focus on improving over the next 6 to 12 months? Who will keep you accountable in those areas?

- James 1:22 admonishes us to be “doers of the Word.” What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Introduction

Christinity has been plagued by consumerism

- Christianity becomes something to be sold or a fad of moralism for the masses.
 - o Focus: loving and follow Jesus
 - o Less emphasis on sin and repentance
- Contrast: Biblical Christianity
 - o We are called to take up our cross daily and follow Jesus.
 - o Jesus said many hard teachings of the truth, not catering to the masses.

John 6:60

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?”

John 6:66

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

- anything good is by the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - o The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not something to be sold or marketed but rather is the truth of God's Word.

Romans 12:9-21

- traits of a Christian
 - o Not optional but what we need to strive for.

Passage:

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the

lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

EXPOSITION

Until we see Jesus face God face

- we are on a sanctification journey to become more like Jesus.
- When reading a passage like this, this is not to put you down but to help re-calibrate your life to Jesus.
 - o Like a North Star. Reset your life to what is the truth.
 - o It is about direction (not perfection) of your life.

Overview: Romans 12:9-21

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9. Empathy
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7. GRACIOUSNESS (v.14)

Romans 12:14

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Persecution is a given for the life of a Christian

John 15:20

Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

- if you stand up for what is right, you will be persecuted.

Question: How do you answer those who are persecuting you?

- Do not curse them
- o Not say things such that it would bring harm on them.
- Bless
- o Pray for them that God would have mercy on them.
- ☒ Follow's Jesus example (as well as Stephen)

Luke 23:34

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Acts 7:59-60

And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

- Included those who were hating Stephen was the man who would eventually be Apostle Paul.

9. EMPATHY (v.15)

Romans 12:15

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

- Empathy: actively sharing in the person's emotional experience.

- o Contrast: sympathy: merely feeling sorry for others.
- Coming alongside others
- o What can I do to help you?

1 Thessalonians 2:8

So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

10. UNITY (v.16a)

Romans 12:16a

Live in harmony with one another.

- first, need to be right with God before can have genuine unity among other believers.

1 Corinthians 1:10

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

Matthew 5:9

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

11. HUMILITY (v.16b)

Romans 12:16b

Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

- always have a humble attitude
- o Not a snobbery perspective.
- The body of Christ is inclusive from people from all kinds of ethnicities and regardless of status or income.

James 2:1-5

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby

clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

At the foot of the cross, we are all the same in need of Christ.

- Our king is ultimately Jesus Christ
- o Regardless of ethnicity or class or status.

12. GRACEFUL AND NON-REVENGEFUL (v.17-21)

Romans 12:17-21

Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- Do not retaliate
- o live differently from our natural instinct (of anger and self-defense)
- While can do everything to ask for justice in this world,
- o We must also leave everything to God who is the perfect judge.
- ☒ God will ultimately avenge you.
- ☒ More perfect and holy and just than you could ever do.
- you never know how your good deeds on those who persecute you will be turned by God for His purposes.
- o Example: Richard Wumbrand
- God, give us strength to live our lives that is different from the world.

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

- Two key qualifications:
- o "If possible"
- ☒ Where can be safely done.

- o "So far as it depends on you"
- ☒ You are responsible for your response.
- ☒ If you don't take responsibility for anything, then you will have trouble in relationships (always looking at the other person for their problem)
- ☒ Own up only for what your response was.
- ☒ God will take care of others.
- ☒ God will do more work in their lives than you can ever do.

Choose to forgive.

"Forgiveness is agreeing with the consequences of another person's sin. You are going to live with those consequences whether you want to or not. Your only choice is whether to live under the burden of bitterness or the freedom of forgiveness."