

# **THE BOOK OF ROMANS**

## **14. Living for Others (2)**



### **Introduction**

How can you tell if a person really knows God? Of course we do need to know about God, but a person who really knows him shows it by the way he or she lives. This is why the Apostle Paul usually ends his letters with practical applications to the truths he has taught. In the previous study we began to look at how we can apply these truths, and in this study we will continue to do so.

### **Scripture Reading:** Romans 12:9-21

In these verses there are guidelines or commands about how to live the Christian life. Some of these guidelines are about our relationships with one another in the Body of Christ, others about our personal walk with the Lord, and some about our relationships with outsiders.

- ☉ Make a list of the guidelines that Paul gives concerning our relationships with one another in the Body of Christ in verses 9 to 16.

*(To love one another with sincerity and brotherly love, to honour one another, to share with those in need, to practice hospitality, and to live in harmony with one another. Also we are not to be proud but willing to associate with those who are of a lower position and to identify with the needs of others.)*

- ☉ Spend some time thinking about these guidelines. Which one do you feel is lacking in your life right now? What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
- ☉ Some of these guidelines relate to our personal walk with the Lord. Go through the same verses again and make another list that apply to your walk with God.

*(We are to hate what is evil and cling to what is good, we are to keep our spiritual fervour and serve the Lord. Also we are to be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer, blessing those who persecute us and keeping a humble heart.)*

- ☉ Spend some time thinking about these guidelines or commands written by Paul. Which one is needed in your life right now?
- ☉ The remainder of the verses are guidelines that can be applied to our relationships with all people, especially those who are non-believers. Make a list of these commands from verses 17 to 21.

*(We are not to repay evil for evil but to be careful to do what is right in everyone's eyes, seeking to live at peace with all. Paul advises us not to take revenge when we are wronged, but to overcome evil with good.)*

- ☉ These commands are not easy to obey! Which one have you found the most difficult? What is the Lord saying to you from these verses?

- ☼ This passage begins by speaking about sincere love. Many of the verses show us how to live like that. What can you learn about genuine love from these verses? How can we live like this do you think?

## **Conclusion**

When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment is, he replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.” How do we do that in practical ways? Paul shows us in these verses. We can’t do it in our own strength, but the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. He will enable you!

