

The Be-Attitudes of Romans: ROMANS 12:9-12

Romans 12:1 says, "I beseech you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service."

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so you may discern what is good, pleasing and perfect will of God."

Beginning in verse 9, Paul gives specific details on how not to be conformed to this world. I've nick-named this section as "The B attitudes of Romans." These are the attitudes we need to have in order to be an imitator of Jesus.

1. Be loving vs. 9.

The word used here is agape. Agape is unconditional love. It is the same word that Jesus used to describe God's love for the world in Jn 3:16.

It is the same word that Paul used in Rom 8 to describe how nothing can separate us from the love of God. When Paul says be loving, he's saying, "you have the same kind of Love that God has for you." Then he adds, make sure your love is sincere." We need to have a love that isn't fake or pretend.

Jesus said in John 13:35 "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one to another."

2. BE Kind vs. 10. "Be kindly affectionate to one another in brotherly love."

Heb 13:1 calls us to "Love each other as brothers" and Gal 6:10 raises the bar by reminding us

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of God."

Paul says, "Be kind to one another, honor one another. Hold one another in high esteem by loving the church like your own family."

3. BE Excited: vs. 11-12

"Never be lacking in zeal, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Rejoicing in hope.

Gal 6:9 says, "Do not grow weary in doing good."

In Rev 3:16, we read about church that lost their flame of excitement. Jesus said, "because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."

One of the characteristics of the N.T. church is that they really enjoyed being Christians.

4. BE PATIENT and be Prayerful – vs. 12b. “Be patient in affliction, “faithful in prayer...”

In Romans 8:18, Paul was able to say, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

As Christians we have a living hope that enables us to get through any storm, but not without prayer. “Be prayerful.”

5. BE GIVING – vs. 13a. “Share with God’s people who are in need...”

Gal 6:10, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

6. BE HOSPITABLE – vs. 13b. “Practice hospitality.”

Heb 13:2 "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels unknowingly. “ Show an open heart by having an open home.

7. BE DIFFERENT – vs. 14, 17, 20-21

8. BE UNDERSTANDING – vs. 15. “Rejoice with those who mourn.”

9. BE UNITED – vs. 16a. “Live in harmony with one another.

10. BE HUMBLE – vs. 16b

“Do not set your mind on high things but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.”

11. BE Careful. vs. 17 “Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.”

12. BE PEACEFUL – vs. 18

13. BE TRUSTING – vs. 19

“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.

Close:

These are the Be-attitudes of Romans. You’re going to have to decide whether to *be* or not to *be*!