

Study in Romans

Application > Disposition of the Christian > Behavior of the Christian in Church and Society
Romans 12:9-21

In this passage, Paul lays out a condensed but powerful list of characteristics that are a standard of behavior for each believer to aspire to practice. In contrast to the previous passage in which there is diversity of gifting in the Body, now there is unity of the members of the Body as each of us is called to live a life of love. It is divided into four general areas: behavior of the individual, behavior in the church, behavior in society, and behavior toward those who treat us as enemies.

1. Behavior for the individual: Love sincerely (v. 9)
2. Behavior in the church: Love like family (vv. 10-13; cf. Phil. 2:3-4)
3. Behavior to outsiders: Love with humility (vv. 14-16; cf. Prov. 3:7; 12:15; 26:5; 26:12; 28:11)
4. Behavior to enemies: Love consistently (vv. 17-21; cf. Prov. 25:21-22; I Peter 3:8-9)