



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

905 Clearfield Street * Morehead, KY 40351 * (606)776-7089 * www.gracemorehead.org

Roamin' In Romans Romans Chapter 12

Message preached on Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Marks of the True Christian

1 Timothy 4:1 – “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that *in the latter times some shall depart from the faith*, giving heed to *seducing spirits*, and *doctrines of devils*;

ONE OF THE MOST dangerous doctrines in these end times is misguided grace/faith.

This doctrine is focused on Ephesians 2:8 – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”

QUESTION: Is Ephesians 2:8 truth? Obviously, yes!

THE MISDIRECT? That you are saved by what God did...therefore, you don't have to do anything at all...to be saved and remained saved.

You can drink, and you can chew, and you can go with girls that do!

This doctrine HATES James. They say obviously James had not read Romans.

This doctrine LOVES Romans because of grace and faith.

HOWEVER: This doctrine has NOT read Romans 12.

The first thing Romans 12 tells us to do is to:

~ Laying our flesh down. Which is something we do.

~ Renewing our minds. Which is something we do.

If we don't have to DO anything...why do we need to LAY OUR FLESH DOWN.

If we don't have to DO anything...why do we need to change the way we think?

ILLUSTRATION: What does a strawberry have TO DO to be a strawberry? Tough question? Nope!

A strawberry has TO DO nothing. It's nature identifies it as a strawberry.

DO YOU SEE? What does a Christian have TO DO to be a Christians? Nothing?

HOWEVER: It does have a new nature...therefore, they must change.

QUESTION: What if your strawberry tastes like a grape?

ANSWER: Something is wrong. Perhaps it is a grape!

QUESTION: What if the Christian looks like a heathen?

ANSWER: Something is wrong. Perhaps they are a heathen.

Just like a strawberry will look like and taste like a strawberry...a Christian will look like and act like a Christian...because of their nature. **A new nature!**

That is the significance of the rest of Romans 12 (9 thru 21).

The Apostle Paul identifies what a TRUE CHRISTIAN looks like.

My subdivision says, “Marks of a True Christian”. This is your new nature.

QUESTION: What if you don't recognize some of these things in your life?

ANSWER: You just have some of your OLD NATURE sticking around (being stubborn); you need to go back to verse 1 and lay your flesh down and verse 2 renew your mind.

9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Love Without Dissimulation

"Love" – *agape* – this is the substance of the God kind of love.

RENNER: The highest and finest level of love. To behold someone in great esteem, awe, admiration, wonder and sincere appreciation...to find them irresistible.

It is a LOVE founded on covenant relationship. Immoveable (Romans 8:38,39)

FOUNDATIONALLY: It is acting like God. Walking in His nature.

"Dissimulation" – to pretend or fake; hypocrisy; not genuine; unsincere. Hiding under a false pretense.

RENNER: Someone who deliberately gives a certain impression, even though he knows it is phony.

BASICALLY we are talking about being two-faced with others...saying one thing to their face and doing or saying something else behind their back.

The **MAIN LAYER OF YOUR NEW NATURE** is to have genuine love for others. Nothing fake about it.

As I studied this MARK of a Christian... I noticed four things that we need to emphasize in order to love without dissimulation.

1.) Walk in integrity.

WEBSTERS: An unimpaired state, moral soundness, uprightness and purity.

The root of integrity is the word INTEGER, which is a math term that describes a whole number that has not been broken down into a fraction.

INTEGRITY is simply to NOT be a fraction of yourself. Hiding part of the truth. You live what you believe. You don't tell white lies. You are a person of your word.

Love with integrity.

You stand up for what is right.

When you say something to someone...they can TRUST that it is what you think.

They can TRUST the fact that you are not going to go to another person and talk back about them to that person.

Can they TRUST that when you say you are praying for them...have their back...are doing this or that...that you are?

BELOVED: Integrity is essential in the life of a believer.

John 8:44 – "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

Do you stand up for what is right...even when it is not convenient?

Do you hide how you feel for make things easier for you?

1 Kings 9:4 tells us that one of David's key characteristics was integrity.

He didn't just tell Jonathan that he wanted covenant with him...he stuck with it no matter what.

Even when Jonathan was dead. David was a man of his word.

YOU MAY SAY: Hold it, Pastor Thad...what about Bathsheba?

That was brutal...and when he stepped out of integrity (once) he paid the price.

Very possibly the ONLY defeat he experienced.

Psalms 41:12 – “And as for me, thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face for ever.”

Proverbs 19:1 – “Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.”

Proverbs 20:7 – “The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.”

~ The just man (in position to partake of His promises) walks in integrity.

~ Your children are affected by your integrity. They watch what you do.

2.) **Avoid Manipulation.**

Often people use the illusion of LOVE to get someone to do something for them.

HONESTLY pastors can do this and do this often from the pulpit...manipulating their congregation.

“Manipulation” – to handle or control; to play artfully or unfairly for one's own advantage.

BELOVED: This is a dangerous path to start down.

Absolutely this is lack of integrity...but it is a entity all its own.

This has everything to do with trying to control another person. Love does not control...it edifies.

Genesis 25, 27 – Jacob was known as a deceiver!

“Jacob” – cheater, supplanter (to trip up)

He manipulated Esau into selling his birthright.

He manipulated his father into blessing him.

There is little doubt that God wanted the blessing to go through Jacob...and would have done it correctly for Jacob...but Jacob manipulated the whole thing and brought a lot of heartache into his life because of it.

THINK ABOUT IT: Isn't it what Laban did to Jacob (Rachel and Leah).

UNDERSTAND: When you begin manipulating...you are presenting a lack of faith in the promises and giftings of God for you.

BELOVED: We see this type of thing in the church. Let's get a large band...good music...big stage...to get a large church. Instead of the presence of God.

It is manipulation.

3.) **Agape will produce Agapeo.**

QUITE simply...don't just SAY you love someone...back it up by actions.

1 John 3:18 – “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” James 2

If you love someone...do something! Do, give, etc.

4.) Love Witnesses.

This is something that came to me at about 3:30 this morning.

I ASK YOU: "Do you love the world?"

YOU WILL SAY: "Yes!"

I ASK YOU: "Do you have a passion for the lost?"

YOU WILL SAY: "Yes!"

The remaining question is, when was the last time you witnessed to your friends? When was the last time it kept you up at night? When was the last time you invited them to church? Does it bother you?

QUESTION: Did God love the world?

YOU SAY: "Yes!"

QUESTION: How do we know?

ANSWER: Because of what he did (John 3:16).

Romans 1:16 – "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."