

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

"Outward Love" (1)

Romans 12:14-16

INTRODUCTION

1. The exercise of love is imperative for the child of God (v. 9). It is many-faceted (vv. 9-13).
2. While vv. 9-13 relate particularly to believers inter-relationships one with another, the present text appears to concern those hostile to a believer. Verses 17-19 focus on passive forbearance and 20, 21 on active beneficence.
3. Consider then the points of outward love given emphasis here:-

1. LOVE BLESSING v. 14

The resemblance of this verse to Mt. 5:44 is very close.

a. Positive

The call to bless those who pursue is forceful. Both verbs are in the present. The previous verse has the pursuit of hospitality. What a play on words.

b. Negative

Again present tense verbs. The positive for blessing is effectively linked with the negative to stop cursing. It all provides emphasis.

Item: This sort of "Christian" behavior is not without precedent (cf. 2 Sam. 16:10; Mt. 5:10, 11).

2. LOVE REJOICING v. 15

Two infinitives are used here as imperatives. It is a skillful use of grammar to avoid monotony. Glory to the Holy Spirit Who knows Greek!

a. Rejoicing

The preposition shows "in company with" rejoicing ones. No article, as in v. 14 with "the persecutors," hence any who rejoice, not a class. This is hard to do.

b. Weeping

This is easy to do. This has to do with sympathy while v. 14 with antipathy.

Item: Rejoicing and weeping go hand in hand (cf. Acts 5:41; Rom. 5:3).

3. LOVE AGREEING v. 16

a. Generally v. 16a

What a challenge conveyed by the participle! Simply: be harmonious (thinking) in your relations one to another (1 Cor. 1:10). This would be spiritually cost-effective. It means to have in mind for and then what you have for yourself. It is toward one another

Duties

Diffs

Surrender

(cf. "among" each other in 15:5).

b. Specifically v. 16b, c

1) About ambition. This is a call to avoid attainment at expense of others.

2) About humility. The verb means to be carried away like a flood. What a contrast to the feverish mobility for advance in the world.

3) About self-esteem v. 16d. A negative present tense imperative is employed amidst infinitives and participles. It urges "stop having the habit of becoming (so verb) wise in your own conceits" The prepositional phrase is better "beside yourselves." See Proverbs 3:7.

CONCLUSION

When a believer focuses on others, his outlook will glorify God. When he focuses on self, his outlook will glorify man. Lord, help us.

gifts - prophecy, minister, teach, exhort,
gentle, rule, show mercy.

unity, diversity, harmony