

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 22

Do we really love God?

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In this lesson, we are going to take a look at a particular verse in order to learn to comprehend God's commandments and understand what He is expecting from us. Before we get to that verse, a close look at Romans 12:1-8 will set the context. In verse 1, we are told to present our bodies a living sacrifice; in verse 2, to be transformed to become Christ-like; in verse 3, to live humbly; in verses 4-8, to serve others. God, knowing what our response would be, says, "Now here's how..."

What is interesting about these commandments is that they all come with a reward for doing what God says. Let us take a glimpse at The Sermon on the Mount, (Matthew 5:3,5,9). Jesus said, *"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven...Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth...Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."* These blessings are contingent upon doing what is right. The Lord implies that if we will do right, then He will reward us.

After Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins, He rose from the dead so that He might give us eternal life. He says that, if we are saved, we need to do what He tells us. It is not necessary for us to give Him anything, and there is nothing else He can give to us; He has already given us all spiritual blessings in heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3). Jesus will not force us to do anything, but all that we do for Him should be out of love for HIM. He tells us that if we do what HE says, we will be rewarded. If we do not, we will suffer loss, and we may even be chastened for our disobedience (1 Corinthians 3; Hebrews 12). This is not to say that we will not be tried, tested, or suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12; James 1:3). The goal is for us to be like Jesus Christ now, before we step into the presence of Jesus Christ for eternity. (John 14:21)

Romans 12:9-13, *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."*

We are going to focus on one verse from the above passage to help us with the objective of this lesson, Romans 12:9, *"Let love be without*

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dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.” Definition of Dissimulation: Concealment of one’s thoughts, opinions, and assuming false or counterfeit appearance which conceals the real opinions or purposes. Example: I say, “Hello, Brother, how are you doing?”, but in my heart, I really do not care how he is doing. He never says hello to me first. The only reason I’m being nice is because God wants me to love my neighbor. This is an example of love “with dissimulation”; it is not an example of God’s love.

Do we ever do anything like that? If so, we should stop judging people based on the way they make us feel. We should try to get our own thoughts under control before we criticize others in our heart. 2 Corinthians 10:5, ***“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”***

We really need to put verse 9 of Romans chapter 12 under a microscope. Let’s start with the first three words: ***“Let love be”***. God is love (1 John 4:16). The fruit of the Spirit is love (Galatians 5:22). That Holy Spirit lives inside of us. We have, within our bodies, the very one who is Love. The Lord did not say, “Figure out a way to love.” He said, ***“Let love be”***. Our problem is that we hinder the work of the Holy Spirit by allowing our carnal flesh (through our mind) to be disobedient, thus preventing God from doing what He would do (2 Corinthians 10:5; Philippians 2:3; 1 Peter 1:13). If we would just let Him have His way in our life, the fruit of the Spirit would blossom, rather than be stagnant.

“The fruit of the Spirit is love....” What is the Lord saying? “If you would just let me do what I want in your life, what I know is best for you, you would love your friends, your family, your brothers and sisters in Christ, your neighbor, and lost people. The fruit of the Spirit is love, and I gave you the Holy Spirit when I saved you. Stop hindering what I want to do I your life.”

How about another example: “Do you know that person? Do you know what they did to me?” By saying this, we are saying to the Holy Spirit, “You are not going to love that person through me because I do not want to love them.” We are choosing not to love because we want to emphasize some sin in their life to justify some sin in our own. The Lord says, ***“Let love be.”***

The next thing in Romans 12:9 is two words the Holy Spirit gives that you may have never used in your lifetime ***“without dissimulation”*** (dis - the opposite of simulation). The Lord means, “I do not want you to fake,

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counterfeit, put on a show, or pretend when it comes to love.” Dissimulation is giving a false appearance of or feigning simulation. It could be the hiding of opinions, sentiments, purposes, or intentionally behaving in a false way for a hidden purpose. Everybody knows how to say the “right thing”. What the Lord said is, “I do not want you putting on a pretense when the real thing in your heart does not match it. I want what is inside to work its way out.” (This does not mean God wants you to speak or act in unkindness to anyone if that is what’s in your heart. We will cover this in a future lesson.) Simply put, God does not approve of falsehood.

“Let love be without dissimulation.” 1 John 3:18-19, ***“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.”*** God wants love – love in deed, love in truth. Now go back up to verse 17 of John 3, ***“But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”*** If we say we love someone but then treat that person badly, it is just talk. We are just beating the air with our words. An example of the opposite of this is in verse 16, ***“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”***

What are we trying to hide from our fellow church members by acting in a false way? Where is our heart when we are singing the song “Oh How I Love Jesus”? If we are putting on a show in front of others, our love is with dissimulation, and we are a pretender. If this is the case, we do not really love Jesus. We are in the flesh, and it is sin; we are not pleasing the Lord.

Back to Romans 12:9, ***“...Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”*** In the Bible, there are often two parts to one commandment. God has taken us out of darkness and into light. 2 Corinthians 6:17, ***“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”*** Romans 9:16 is both positive and negative. To abhor is from a Latin word meaning, to detest, hate, despise, or be repulsed by. In our verse it means, to be repulsed by evil, to hate evil extremely. As Christians, we are supposed to love with real, true love, without faking it; and we are to hate extremely the abomination of evil. We are to love like God loves and hate like God hates. (See Proverbs 6:16-19 for what God hates.) Because we don’t feel the way God feels about sin, we do not know how badly it hurts people, but God does. God has seen all the murders, rapes, child molestations, families crying in hospital rooms after someone has had a “good time” sinning. God sees it all; yet, people dislike it when sin is

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preached against. The preacher is considered “hateful”. It’s easier for us to be neutral, to be compromising, so that no one will be offended, thus allowing people to die in their sins and go to Hell. God says, **“Abhor that which is evil”**.

Romans 12:9 continued, **“...cleave to that which is good.”** “Cleave”, in our King James Bible, is a very unique word. The new translations have replaced it with “cling”, which only expresses half of the meaning God is trying to show us. “Cleave” means both to bind together and to hack to pieces. God is teaching us two meanings in one word. 2 Samuel 23:9-10, **“And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men of David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away: (Eleazar stands with the other two men to take on the Philistines.) He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil.”** He has a grip on that sword, and he’s swinging, hacking, cutting, and stabbing. Why? Because the Philistines are the enemies of God and are trying to destroy God’s people. Eleazar is so tired; his arm has seized up, his shoulders have given out, the muscles in his body are cramping. His hand is around that sword, and he can’t turn it loose. It has become part of his hand, an extension of his arm. Notice what the Bible says, **“and the LORD wrought a great victory that day”**. God tells us in Hebrews that the sword will cut and divide asunder, Hebrews 4:12, **“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”** In Revelation, that sword will smite us unless we repent; it will kill us if we are an enemy of God (Revelation 2:16; 19:15). That same sword will give us eternal life and protect us (1 Peter 1:23). Ephesians 6:17, **“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”**.

Do we want people to go the Hell? Do we want carnal Christians to live useless lives because they never learn to love without dissimulation, abhor that which is evil, and cleave to that which is good? This is why, as a born-again child of God, we need to **“run with patience the race that is set before us”** (Hebrews 12:1b) and **“preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”** (2 Timothy 4:2). We must stand for what is right. Ephesians 6:14, **“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;”**. We must teach what is evil and what is good. We cannot become lax or compromising in our commitment to the Lord.

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Imagine we are among millions of troops led by our Commander, Jesus Christ. We are pushing forward and attacking the enemy, daily moving closer to victory. While doing this, we watch as some of our fellow Christians are lured away by the distractions of the world, the flesh, and the devil. They are falling by the wayside, only to be ashamed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. We need to keep swinging that sword, doing what is right, following our Saviour until He says, "At ease. Let's all have supper."

Do we really love God? Well then, ***"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."***

Notes

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Do we really Love God?

Name _____

Note: must include scripture with all your answers, including the T/F.

1. Who is Eleazer?

2. Define the following words.
 - a. abhor

 - b. cleave

3. Explain 1 John 5:2

4. Explain 1 John 4:20-21

5. Show the comparison of Matthew and the sermon on the Mount and the point we are trying to make in this lesson.

6. Does God hate? - What are the six things mentioned in this passage that God hates, and what is the seventh thing God considers an abomination?

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7. How do we hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in our heart with our mind?
8. What is the definition of dissimulation?
9. What is the difference between the Word of God and the word of God?
10. Why do you think the new translations have removed the word "cleave " and replaced it with the word "cling"?
11. Definition of Carnal Christian.
12. Why would a carnal Christian live a useless life?
13. Explain how we can be Christ-like in this life, before we step through the doors into the presence of Jesus Christ on to Eternal Life.
14. Compare these verses in Proverbs 26:13-16 with the definition of compromise. Describe what a compromiser is.
15. Explain Romans 12:4-8.

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16. Explain 2 Timothy 4:2 and tell us why this verse is for all of us and not just for the preacher.

17. If we really love the Lord, what should we be doing every day?

True/false

- Jesus wants us to be totally honest with people, so we should tell them what we really think about them.
- Most of God's commandments come with a reward if you do what is right.
- The word of God and the Word of God are the same.
- We need to force our minds to stay on the things of God; it takes effort and work to be a true Christian.

**Scripture memorization**

Romans 12:9; 1 John 4:20; 1 John 5:12

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?