

REMEMBER

Our Walk with Christ

Romans 12

WELCOME: My final series of sermons to you have been built around the word REMEMBER.

Numbers 15:39–40 NKJV ... remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, 40 and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God.

We are remembering. And I am not asking you to remember what Bro. Mike said, we are remembering what God has said. So we began with

REMEMBER THE FOUNDATION – Believing and obeying the Word of God

We started here because if this foundation crumbles, the whole house will fall.

- When your doubts lead you to reject some portion of God's Word
- Or when you refuse to obey some part of the Word of the Lord
- The storms of life will inevitably come, and your house will fall.

That's what Jesus said in Luke, chapter 6.

And we REMEMBER THE SAVIOR – Who died for our sins and rose again

- He alone can save us.

Acts 4:12 NKJV Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

- Jesus alone is also our example
 - in His humility,
 - in His obedience to the Father,
 - and in His willingness to be a servant.

And listening to Jesus, we heard Him say

- Go and make disciples of all the people groups
- And be a witness to Me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the end of the earth.

So we

REMEMBER THE MISSION – Sharing the mission of the Father to gather a people to live with Him forever and share in His rule over the earth.

Today, I want us to

REMEMBER OUR WALK WITH CHRIST

As with these other central things of the Scriptures to remember, there are many, many texts of Scripture we could use, for these are truths taught throughout the pages of God's perfect Word.

This morning I want you to go with me to the Book of Romans. Sadly, a lot of Christians avoid Romans because they believe it is a reservoir of deep doctrine and intricately woven theology.

I cannot deny that such is true, I just tell you the Book is worth the work it takes to read it. And if you ever want to move from the milk to the meat, Romans is a good place to make the transition.

But Romans is not just a book of doctrine. In Romans 12, the Holy Spirit switches over to very practical application, where He begins to speak through the Apostle Paul about our day to day walk with Christ.

Here is the question that is answered in the second half of the Book of Romans, and a good portion of that answer is in this one chapter we will look at today, chapter 12.

- **When you believe and obey the Word of God,**
 - **When you have trusted the Savior and are following Him,**
 - **When you are living a life on mission, sharing the gospel from your Jerusalem to the end of the earth,**
- **What does your life look like?**

WHAT SHOULD YOUR WALK WITH CHRIST LOOK LIKE DAY TO DAY?

Let's go to Romans 12 and see.

Romans 12:1–21 NKJV 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

WALKING WITH CHRIST IS ...

- **Daily living a changed life – transformed by a mind instructed by Scripture.**

3 ... **not to think of himself more highly than he ought** to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as **we have many members in one body**, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

- **Continually humbling ourselves, recognizing the value of other members of the body of Christ.**

6 Having then **gifts** differing according to the grace that is given to us, **let us use them:**

- **Using our spiritual gifts and talents to serve the Lord and the body of Christ.**

7 ... he who **gives**, with liberality;

- **Giving generously out of the resources God has provided to us.**

As I depart, here is a place I need to challenge and encourage you. While our giving remained strong following, the hurricane and the pandemic, we have perhaps become a bit complacent, thinking, "Well others are giving, so maybe I can slack off a little."

And the result is that while last year at this time, we were at 90% of our ministry budget, now we are only at 82%. Please, let me challenge you, knowing that God exhorts you, to give generously that His Kingdom work through this church not in any way be hampered.

God has supplied sufficient resources to the members of this body to do the work of the Kingdom through this church. All we have to do is to give generously of God's generous provision to us!

9 Let **love** be without hypocrisy.

Love is unquestionably the chief virtue of the Christian life.

1 Corinthians 13:13 NKJV And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

John 13:35 NKJV By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

The word the Spirit chose for love (out of three choices available) was agape, which means unselfish devotion to the needs of another. Agape is the word used to describe the love of God in

John 3:16 NKJV For God so **loved** the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- **We, the children of God, are to love as our Father loves, and that without hypocrisy.** It is to be no pretense for the approval or manipulation of others. It is to be genuine and sincere.

9 ... **Abhor** what is **evil**.

- **As we walk with Christ, we hate what is evil!**

Proverbs 8:13 NKJV The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; ...

The one who abides in God`s love abhors evil. God says love ...

1 Corinthians 13:6 NKJV does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

The tolerance level for evil is far too high in the life of the typical American Christian. Too often we tolerate, we “understand,” we taste, then we embrace evil. The place we are often the quickest to dull our hatred of evil is in our entertainment, where we excuse it as a part of our culture and times. Instead, the life we ought to live is one in obedience to

1 Thessalonians 5:21–22 NKJV 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

9 ... **Cling to** what is **good**.

The word cling comes from the root meaning glue.

- **Be stuck to what is good.** The Christian should be like the polarized magnet – repelling all that is evil, attracting and adhering to all that is good.

10 Be **kindly affectionate** to one another with **brotherly** love,

The words kindly affectionate translate a single compound word in Greek. The first part means loving as a friend; the second means loving as a family member, without regard to desirability. We love the members of our family regardless of how they look, dress, talk, and sometimes in spite of how they act. That is the way we are to love each other in the Family of Faith.

- **Love fellow Christians like family.**

10 ...in honor **giving preference to one another;**

Love says, "Please, you go first." Love behaves in a way to put the needs and desires of others in front of our own. This is not done to seek return or advantage. This is done out of genuine regard and care.

Philippians 2:3 NKJV *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*

Allowing this fruit to flourish within a local body of Christ is one of the secrets of sweet fellowship and unity in a church family.

Likewise the failure of this fruit to ripen in the lives of the members of a church will certainly lead to discord that dishonors the Savior and will often split or ruin a church.

We all have likes and dislikes. We all have opinions about things not prescribed in Scripture: colors, styles, etc. There is nothing wrong for there to be differences of opinion about such minor matters. But when members begin to insist on getting their own way rather than giving preference to one another, their own spiritual lives and the church are in trouble!

- **Giving preference to others.**

11 not lagging in **diligence**, **fervent** in spirit, **servicing** the Lord;

Work like so many of you did in VBS! "Do not be lazy in God's work. Work with haste and carefulness." We are created with a purpose and bought with a price!

Fervent means boiling hot! Being on fire for the Lord is not a description of a religious fanatic. It is an oft ignored biblical command!

- **Being on fire for Christ and serving Him diligently.**

12 rejoicing in **hope**, patient in **tribulation**,

- **We constantly rejoice in both what we have and will have in Christ, allowing us to persevere, even in persecution and times of trouble.**

12 continuing steadfastly in **prayer**;

- **Constantly devoted to prayer.**

13 distributing to the needs of the **saints**, given to hospitality.

- **Faithful to share with those in need, especially those of the Family of Faith.**

14 **Bless** those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

- **Even when persecuted, being a blessing to all we encounter.**

15 **Rejoice** with those who rejoice, and **weep** with those who weep.

- **Genuinely caring enough for people that their joy becomes our own and their sorrow is our sorrow.**

16 Be of the **same mind toward one another**. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the **humble**. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

- **Being impartial and seeing all as equal before the Lord, including ourselves.**

18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, **live peaceably** with all men.

- **Do everything you can to make peace with others.**

19 Beloved, **do not avenge yourselves**, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

- **We forgive, leaving vengeance to the Lord, even showing love and kindness to those who hate us.**

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good**.

- **We not only hate evil and love good, we do good, even in bad situations to combat evil.**

To most of us, these admonitions of how we are to walk with the Lord and live our lives as followers of Christ are not new. Time has only allowed me really to list them and not to address each one with the detail it deserves.

But there is value in seeing them altogether, which is why the Spirit prompted Paul to list each one in sequence in his letter to the Roman believers.

This depicts the transformation that the Holy Spirit is doing in each one of us who has trusted Christ, and it serves to point out those places we have not yet been significantly transformed.

To each one of these we Christians could reply, "That's right, or A little bit, or I've got a long way to go." What we should not do is to settle in our lives for a grade of 50% or even 70% or 80%.

While we REMEMBER THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORD, REMEMBER THE SAVIOR, REMEMBER THE MISSION, let us also REMEMBER OUR WALK WITH CHRIST and through obedience to the Word allow the Spirit of God to grow us every day.