

Sermon Notes

Building Up One Another (2): Loving and Praying for One Another *Romans 13.8-10, James 5.13-20*

I. Introduction

1. Motivations for Building Up One Another (or any service for the Lord)
 - Constrained by the love of Christ, Empowered by the Indwelling Spirit and for the Glory of God
2. Basis for Building Up One Another
 - Members in the Body of Christ and Children of the Family of God cf Ro 12.5, 1 Jn 3.1
 - I may add, we are Soldiers in the Lord's Army and Athletics of the Team Jesus Christ cf Eph 6.10-18, Heb 12.1-2
3. The foundation and evident outworking of the Body Life is love and prayer.

II. "...Continuing Debt to Love One Another" Ro 13.8-10

1. The underlying attitude...
 - Not out of the generosity of our vast resources
 - Neither out of our spare change
 - Love is the continuing debt to one another in the Body of Christ.
2. Concepts of "in debt" to others is not an uncommon theme in the epistle of Romans
 - We are in debt to the unbelieving world to preach the gospel Ro 1.16
 - We are in debt to the indwelling Spirit to live a Spirit-led life Ro 8.12-17
 - We are in debt to the state to pay our taxes and dues Ro 13.6
 - We are in debt to our brethren to love one another just as Christ love us cf Ro 13.8, Jn 13.34
3. How do we love one another then?
The text does not leave us clueless Vs 9-10
We are to love one another (with additional thoughts from Westminster Shorter Catechism)
 - a. By not committing adultery and to keep ourselves sexually pure in heart, speech and action WSC QA 71
 - b. By not committing murder and making full effort to preserve the lives of others WSC QA 68
 - c. By not stealing from our and lawfully acquire and increase other's money and possessions WSC QA 74

- d. By not coveting and have a proper loving attitude towards others and their possessions WSC QA 80
- e. May I add, By not bearing false witness and to tell the truth and to maintain and promote others' reputations especially when testifying WSC QA 77

III. ‘...Pray for One Another’ James 5.13-20

1. Lapses in praying...
 - Common parting words with one another
 - Only the prayer warriors need only to pray
 - Lack of love to pray for one another
2. What are the prayer items
The text does not leave us clueless as well
 - a. Pray for the sick Vs 13-16
 - b. Pray for the wayward Vs 16, 19-20
May I add (amongst others),
 - c. Pray for the Lord's servant in their trials, ministry Ro 15.30-33, for open doors of service Col 4.2-4 and to serve the Lord with a good conscience Heb 13.18
 - d. Pray for the lost Ro 10.1
“If your theology keeps you from having a sincere burden for the lost, there's something wrong with your theology” Warren Wiersbe

IV. Christ – Our Lover and Intercessor

- Our love and prayer for one another is but a pale reflection of what Christ's love and prayer for us.
- But yet, Christ chooses to use our feeble love for one another to show the world who we really are Jn 13.34-35 and our faithless prayers to accomplish His will cf Acts 12.6-19
- Beloved, let us not grow weary in doing well but continue to love and pray for one another