

TITLE AND NUMBER: 148. Living in love



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Romans 12:9-13;-17-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted

to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality. (v9-13)

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (v17-21)

LOOKING FURTHER: Romans 12:9-21; Daniel 6:1-16

What does this Bible passage tell us?

The writer of this Bible passage, Paul, gives us important tips on how to be the best version of ourselves. He shows us how to demonstrate genuine love, kindness and goodness to others, even in difficult situations. He also gives practical ideas about how living in love can overcome evil.

When the Bible was translated into English, the word 'love' was used to replace many other words in the original language, because we only have one word for love in English. Sometimes, additional explanations are therefore necessary when the Bible uses the word 'love.' In this passage, Paul uses the Ancient Greek word 'agape' which means to love sincerely, without pretending or being fake. It means truly caring for others and wanting the best for them. Also, this passage reminds us that we can achieve this by living in peace with one another. This includes our friends, family, and even those who may be different from us. As a follower of Christ, we should try to get along with everyone as much as possible and be a peacemaker in our relationships. Be the first to make things right!

Sometimes, we may face difficult situations or people may treat us badly because of our faith. Instead of seeking revenge, we are called to respond with kindness and prayer. We can choose to bless those who hurt us and ask God to help them. This shows a different way of living!

Reflections:

- Read Daniel 6:1-16. Doing God's will can sometimes bring challenges. But, He will make a way through and reward your faithfulness.
- Are you facing difficulties in relationships? Pray that God will give you the opportunity to repair the relationship. Be prepared to take the first step.
- List the tips Paul gave in this passage. Pray that God will help you apply them in your life.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



AGAPE

Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

