

Romans # 199

“Separation without Anxiety”

Romans 16:17-19; 1st Corinthians 5:9-11; Matthew 10:34-39

Love has 3 objects: God, people including self and things including circumstances.

Personal love is concentrating on the object of love separate from all others and impersonal love is concentrating on Jesus Christ which sometimes means separating from others.

The Bible speaks of the personal love of the Father for the Son and the Son's personal love for the Father; the impersonal love of God for the human race; the personal love of God for believers; the personal love of believers for God the Father, occupation with Jesus Christ, fellowship with the Holy Spirit (2Cor 13:14) and the impersonal love of believers toward other believers and unbelievers.

Truth without unity leads to arrogance and unity without truth leads to a self-righteous departure from the true Gospel and to know the difference requires self-discipline.

Self-discipline sets aside superficialities in life and concentrates on the essentials of life avoiding the distractions of pleasure, social life and anything else that would conflict with daily intake of the Word.

When we reach spiritual maturity, we don't stop to rest on our accomplishments because to stop for any reason is to go backward in the spiritual life, so we must press on even though continuous pressure and opposition from satanic forces of evil will be obvious at that stage and part of this pressing on involves separation from other believers.

We never separate from an unbeliever unless the Word of God is compromised like in 2 Cor 6:14 where a believer should never marry an unbeliever.

We are to separate from worldliness which is not something we do, it's something we think that may or may not lead to action.

Being transformed from the world or worldliness is renewing our mental attitude from human viewpoint to divine viewpoint.

Paul was sure that so many Roman believers could not be mature unless they were authority-oriented.

Authority is legal power delegated by God under the laws of divine establishment where certain members of the human race have jurisdiction and responsibility over and for others.

Arrogance is rejection of every authority but our own and humility is respect for authority even though we may think the authority is unfair.

Greatness, happiness and the ability to cope with problems comes from understanding and respecting authority and it begins with the authority of parents.

Paul is admiring and enjoying the fact that believers who are not his congregation directly but under other pastors are growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Regeneration is the basis for our salvation but the baptism by the Holy Spirit, unique to the Church Age, is the basis for our royalty.

While Jesus Christ the last Adam was alone on the cross, God the Father had to provide a body that would become a bride or a family for Him so His aloneness had to be experienced in the same way it was with the first Adam.