

A Checklist for Christian Love: Part 1

(Romans 12:9-13)

Theology → Application

- ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

1. Love must be sincere (9a)

- ⁹ **Let love be genuine. (Romans 12:9a)**
- *Sine cera* (Latin: “without wax”) (English: “sincere”)
- Ancient Greek theatre masks (“hypocrisy”)
- **Agape** (Greek: “Unconditional giving of oneself for the sake of others”)
- “It means helping others become better people.” (Grant Osborne)
- ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

2. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good (9b)

- **Abhor what is evil;**
- For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil may not dwell with you. (Psalm 5:4)
- The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,
but he loves him who pursues righteousness. (Proverbs 15:9)
- **hold fast to what is good. (Romans 12:9b)**
- “For God so loved the world,^[a] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)
- ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. **God is love**, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:14-16)

3. Be devoted to one another in brotherly/sisterly love (10a)

- **¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. (Romans 12:10a)**
- “The Greek word for “*be devoted*” (*philostorgoi*) means the type of loyalty and affection that family members have for one another. This kind of love allows for weaknesses and imperfections, communicates, deals with problems, affirms others, and has a strong commitment and loyalty to others.” (Grant Osborne)
- ¹⁶ But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. (Ruth 1:16)

4. Honor one another above yourselves (10b)

- **Outdo one another in showing honor. (Romans 12:10b)**
- Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3-4)
- ¹⁶ And Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God. ¹⁷ And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. (1 Samuel 23:16-17)

5. Do not lack zeal; maintain spiritual fervor, (11a)

- **¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, (Romans 12:11a)**
- Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
 Serve the LORD with gladness!
 Come into his presence with singing! (Psalm 100:1-2)
- So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. . . .¹⁴ And David danced before the LORD with all his might. (2 Samuel 6:12b, 14)
- ³⁷ As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” (Luke 19:37-38)
- “In the context of Christian service “*fervent*” means “to be full of energy, to be on fire with zeal and enthusiasm.” It is a warning against settling into comfortable, shallow ruts in our spiritual lives.” (Bruce Hurt)

6. Serve the Lord (11b)

- **6. Serve the Lord (Romans 12:11b)**
- Choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15)
- ¹⁸ He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” ¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. (Matthew 26:18-19)

7. Be joyful in hope and patient in affliction (12a)

- **¹² Rejoice in hope,**
- Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1 KJV)
- For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)
- **be patient in tribulation (Romans 12:12a)**
- ³³ I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world. (John 16:33 NLT)

8. Be consistent in prayer (12b)

- **be constant in prayer. (Romans 12:12b)**
- ⁷ All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ⁸ Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.” ⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.
- ¹⁰ When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. (Daniel 6:7-10)
- Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)

9. Share with God's people in need (13a)

- **¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints (Romans 12:13a)**
- Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (1 John 3:17)
- ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:34-35)

10. Share with visitors and sojourners in need (13b)

- **and seek to show hospitality. (Romans 12:13b)**
- ³³ “When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. ³⁴ You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 19:33-34)
- ⁹ “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰ And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 19:9-10)
- ² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor.” And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.” ³ So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers (Ruth 2:2-3)

Give, Then Give Some More


- ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'
(Matthew 25:37-40)

The End of the Matter

- A good way to grow deeper in the Lord is to set spiritual goals.
- Which of today's applications of theology will you focus on?



Let Us Pray

A photograph of two hands raised in prayer, holding a glowing white cross. The hands are silhouetted against a bright, golden sunset sky with clouds. The sun is visible through the cross, creating a lens flare effect. The background shows a horizon line over water.