

"Let It Be"

Romans 12: 9 - 21  
September 12, 2010

- **God Requires That His Children Live In Genuine Love, Not Be "Bad Actors", (vs. 9 - 21)**
  - Love Unhypocritical Is Always Devoted, (vs. 9 - 13)
  - Love Unhypocritical Always Blesses Others Unconditionally, (vs. 14 - 16)
  - Love Unhypocritical Never Pays Back Evil For Evil, (vs. 17 - 18)
  
  - Love Unhypocritical Never Executes Its Own Judgment, (vs. 19 - 20)
    - We must be experienced at submitting to God's judgment, (vs. 19)
      - ✚ We are not "avengers," (vs. 19a) We are "submitters," (vs. 19b) God is the "vindicator," (vs. 19c)
  
    - We must be experienced at showing kindness to our enemies, (vs. 20); Cited from Proverbs 25: 21-22
      - ✚ Kindness towards one's enemy is contrary to what is expected; even by them, (vs. 20a); *"If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall bring it back to him. If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying down under its burden, you shall refrain from leaving him with it; you shall rescue it with him."* (Exodus 23:4-5)
  
      - ✚ Kindness towards one's enemy is intentional, not accidental, (vs. 20b);
        - ❖ Not "if" but when; (Pres.Act.Subj) - might hunger / might thirst
  
        - ❖ *"And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, "Please strike this people with blindness." So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha. And Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." And he led them to Samaria.*  
  
*As soon as they entered Samaria, Elisha said, "O Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." So the Lord opened their eyes and they saw, and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria. As soon as the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall I strike them down? Shall I strike them down?"*  
  
*He answered, "You shall not strike them down. Would you strike down those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master." So he prepared for them a great feast, and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the Syrians did not come again on raids into the land of Israel." (2 Kings 6:18-23)*
  
    - ✚ Kindness towards one's enemy is the most tangible demonstration of divine righteousness, (vs. 20c)
      1. "Coals" is the shame brought on someone for wrongdoing not retaliated against
      2. "Coals" is the harsher judgment of God for rebuffing kindness shown in wrongdoing
  
      3. "Coals" -indeed shame that leads to genuine repentance or wrathful judgment upon unbelief in the face of godly witness
  
  - Love Unhypocritical Is Never Overcome By Evil, (vs. 21)