

## Twelve Principles to Enhance and Enrich Your Life I

Romans 12:9-13

Intro: Most people I know would like for their lives to have a positive influence on others and for them to feel personally fulfilled themselves in the process.

I would suggest that if we follow the principles I am going to share during these next couple or three weeks, we will not only have a positive influence on others but we will find much satisfaction within our own lives in the process.

Lets look at what the bible lays out in this passage here in Romans 12 as some practical principles that will encourage peace and harmony in our church, our homes, our workplace, our community and in our own personal lives. There are 12 of these so we can look at 4 each week for the next three weeks. So lets begin by noticing that we will enhance life, both our and others when we

### A. Love without hypocrisy

In other words, let it be real. Someone has observed that to some people, love is only the last word in a telegram. But it ought not to be that way. Lets think briefly about just a couple things concerning real love.

- Real love is listening to someone who has great needs.

How many of us have trouble talking in a situation or giving our opinion about something? How many of us have trouble waiting for the other person to finish speaking because we are already thinking about how we are going to answer

David Mc Casland once said "Listening is not the job of a talented few but the privilege and responsibility of us all. Someone needs to tell you something today. Are you ready and willing, for Jesus sake to lend an ear." A big part of loving is **listening**.

Then real love is being willing to

- Get our hands dirty.

In the parable of the good Samaritan, the Samaritan looked at the man beside the road and said tough luck pal but I gotta get going cause I have something really important to do.

No, the scripture says in Luke 10:34 that *Kneeling beside him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with medicine and bandaged them.* Love is not too good to get into the blood and gore of a lost world in order to bind up someone's gaping wounds to their hearts.

Next, real love is

- Seeking to make another person happy.

Most folks don't have a very good nor productive life because they are all wound up in themselves. It has been said that no one is so empty as when he is filled with thoughts of himself. Or said another way of all the four letter words, self is the worst.

So lets learn to love others, not just self because as Elbert Hubbard reminds us, "The love we give away is the only love we keep."

B. To enhance life we need to abhor what is evil and cling to what is good V 9

The NLT states it this way *Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good.* In other words, hate the wrong attitudes, actions, and speech that hurts people and destroys their lives. Instead, cling to the good things that enhance the welfare of others. As we deal with one another we always need to do the just and honorable deeds with just and honorable attitudes with just and honorable speech. We can never enhance our own lives at the expense of putting others down.

C. To enhance our life we need to be kindly affectionate one to another

Again the NLT says it like this *Love each other with genuine affection,*

Other words that reflect the meaning of affection are words like warmth, tenderness, devotion or friendship. In a day when people are so self absorbed and prone to get ugly when things don't go their way we find that friendships are often sold for a nickel or two. Someone noted that the trouble with being a grouch is that you have to make new friends every few months.

If you want to enhance your life and the lives of those around you, you can make great progress when you hold the lives of your friends close to your heart and really mean it. Spend time with them, care about them, call them, write them or do what ever it take to let them know that they are important to you and you value them. A good rule for going through life is to keep the heart a little softer than the head.

D. To enhance our lives give preference to one another, or take delight in honoring each other.

Today a lot of people want to sit at the head table as it were. They feel slighted if someone gets recognition and they don't.

We see this a lot of times when a church, for example, tries to thank someone and they miss someone on the list and that person gets miffed and has their feelings hurt and they pout.

That is sad because we should be happy when someone gets recognized even if we don't. In other words when we give preference to others we can be truly happy when someone else gets recognition instead of us. Do you have thin skin when it comes to someone else getting recognition instead of you?

From the first part of these verses we find 4 principles or plans of action that if done will enhance not only our life but the lives of those around us. They are

Love without hypocrisy  
Hate what is wrong, Stand on the side of the good.  
Love each other with genuine affection, And  
Give preference to one another or take delight in honoring each other.

Next time we will look at 4 more things that will help us enjoy our trip through this life a lot more than we sometimes do. As we finish today let's be sure that we have a life worth enhancing. The way to begin that is to find eternal life and let that be the backbone of life as we know it and work at enhancing.

To do that read just a few more lines and find the secret to the first step in having a real life to enhance, an eternal life.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God.  
Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at [lapeerchurch@gmail.com](mailto:lapeerchurch@gmail.com) Subject line: (Salvation)