

## Twelve Principles to Enhance and Enrich Your Life Part II

Rom. 12:9-13

Intro: If you remember, last week we looked at four principles or actions from Rom. 12:9-13 that, if applied to our lives, would make not only others around us to live enhanced lives but our lives would be much more pleasant and enjoyable as well.

Those principles or acts were to

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.

So lets begin today by noticing the next 4 that will enhance life, both our and others when we put them into practice. We will finish them next week with the final four in the passage. So today lets begin by noticing that our lives and those around us will be enhanced if we will

A. Not be lazy in our work V 11a

Back up in V 7 Paul talked about serving and if there is any gift that all Christians might possibly have, I believe it is the gift of serving. This gift is one that is foremost in the life of the Lord Jesus. Mark 10:45 says *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."* Any slob can sit around and have others serve or wait on them but it takes some special kind of character for us to get up and go serve others.

John 13:1-17 Notice V 17 *where it says* You know these things--now do them! That is the path of blessing.

The blessing from serving others and not being lazy in that work of service is to enhance, or make better, the life of those around us and in the process do the same for our own life as well. Christians should be channels of blessing to others, not chalices or containers just waiting for someone to fill us up.

The chorus of our lives should be, if we are to enhance both our lives and those of others, the words of the hymn Make Me A Blessing which goes like this

*Make me a blessing, make me a blessing,  
Out of my life, may Jesus shine  
Make me a blessing, Make me a blessing  
O Saviour I pray  
Make me a blessing to someone today*

## B. Be fervent in spirit

In Revelation 3 God spoke harshly to the Laodecians and condemned their lukewarmness.

How many here like to be around someone with the personality and drive of a pile of mud? We usually like to be around people who are vibrant and alive don't we? But how many are there that just seem to be existing not hot not cold, Just existing?

And if there are people around us that are that way they are hurting and need something to enhance their lives. And you might just be the vehicle God wants to use but, if you are not going to show any passion then neither you nor they will benefit very much.

Nothing is as contagious as enthusiasm think of it this way, the person with enthusiasm lives abundantly in spite of and not because of his situation. So if you want to enhance your life and the lives of those around you show some fervency in who you are, what you believe, and how you serve.

## C. Serving the Lord V 11 says *serve the Lord enthusiastically.*

**First**, to enhance our life and those of people around us, we need to believe we are important to God in his work and his command is to serve him there.

**Secondly**, we need to find our place of service in the body of Christ and discover the tools and gifts he has given to use in that ministry

**Then thirdly**, we need to follow the words of Ecclesiastes 9:10 a where it says *Whatever your hand finds to do, verily, do it with all your might;*

How is your service to the Lord? Do you say or feel that service should all be done by others while you sit or, do you feel that you have done your part and now it is time for you to take it easy and let the younger ones do it? Or do you believe that your life is to be one of continual service for as long as you draw breath?

Your decision on this matter will deeply affect the impact you will have on enhancing the lives of those around you and even your own happiness will be deeply affected. There is no retirement in the Lords work because he knows that retirement is the last stage before death and since there is no death for those who know Christ, we can look forward to an eternity of service, just that we won't get physically tired in doing it.

D. Rejoice in hope or to *Be glad for all God is planning for you.*

Here I want to think of two words and their impact on whether or not they enhance the lives of those around us and even ourselves. Those words are optimist and pessimist

A pessimist is a person who is always good for bad news, is never happy unless he is miserable, and burns his bridges before he gets to them. Or in other words, a pessimist is a person who thinks the sun sets in the morning and then lives the rest of his day in the dark.

On the other hand optimism is described by someone as

- Taking a camera along when you go fishing
- The ability to smile at misfortune when fortune doesn't smile at you
- Optimism is expecting your wife to drive a car six foot wide through a garage door that is eight foot narrow;
- It is never worrying about the future because it never becomes serious until it is the present.
- Optimism is the fame of mind that enables a teapot to sing, though it is up to its nose in hot water

Another way of saying it is the optimist sees an opportunity in every calamity; a pessimist sees a calamity in every opportunity

Now let me just ask one question. Which one would you like to have around you to help enhance your life? If you choose the optimist, and you want to enhance your own life and those of others to be enhanced, then choose to be optimistic yourself as well as being optimistic with others.

If you are a pessimistic type person then you need to hang around people who are upbeat and optimistic because if you don't, you will miss out on much joy and happiness on your trip through life.

Well in wrapping things up for this week we have learned four more things we can do to enhance not only our own life but the lives of those around us. Lets work on maybe even just one of these this week and then be alert to notice if you are finding greater purpose and enjoyment in your own life as well as watching to see if those dear ones around us are also getting a bit of enlightenment and happiness in their lives as well?

Like I said last week, if you want to enhance your life why not let it be your eternal life and to get that do the same thing this week as you read about last week. Read these next few lines and make them real for you.

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)