ROMANS: A FIRM FOUNDATION

Fulfilling the Great Commandment

Romans 12:9-21
37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:37–40
9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.
LIFE IN COMMUNITY

1. Love and honor

   9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.
LIFE IN COMMUNITY

2. Demonstrate zeal and joy
   \[11\] Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. \[12\] Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

3. Share with them
   \[13\] Share with God’s people who are in need.
4. Mourn and weep with them
   Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

5. Live in harmony
   Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.
LIFE WITH CONFLICT
14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 On the contrary:
“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
1. Bless when others curse

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
2. Let God be your bill collector

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.
3. Serve the ones you would like to resist.

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
• How does our community life compare to the paradigm that Paul outlines?

• How much are you willing to sacrifice for the sake of community?

• How do you respond to opposition or criticism?

• How does the response that Paul advocates differ from the cultural norms of our day?