

ORDINARY TIME: EXTRA-ORDINARY DAYS...

Burning Center and Porous Borders

Romans 12:9-21

- i. A youth retreat covenant stipulated—No Drama!
- ii. This text has no less than 23 imperatives.
- iii. This text would be a great covenant for the Church universal.

A roadmap for the Church going forward in ordinary time and these extra-ordinary days...

A four-point check-up for the church...

I. GENUINE LOVE FLOWS FROM CHRIST—THE BURNING CENTER (12:1-8)

II. GENUINE LOVE IS RADICAL (9-13)

- a. How is the church an alternative from the world of power, privilege, conformity and consumerism?
- b. This passage is not a greeting card slogan but a strong emphasis on discipleship.
- c. Genuine means un-hypocritical and could read “Genuine love is.....”
- d. Concrete practice and not abstract words.
- e. It is energetic and profoundly optimistic v. dystopic.
- f. Abhor evil, cling to good v get what you can.
- g. Affectionate to one another in brotherly love v be an influencer.
- h. Outdoing one another in honor v tear folks down.
- i. Not lagging in diligence. Being afire in the Spirit v you do you.
- j. Serving the Lord or the Time? V serving self.
- k. Rejoicing in hope v look back in nostalgia.
- l. Persevering in affliction v run from pain.
- m. Devoted to prayer v manage our way out of it.
- n. Contributing to the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality v its mine, I worked for it.

III. GENUINE LOVE IS HOSPITABLE (14-18)

- a. Hospitality is THE distinctive mark of the church.
- b. Not just concerned about new people, our people, and mission as charity.
- c. Hospitality as justice.
- d. Hospitality as charity it offers crumbs from the table. Hospitality as justice, offers a place at the table.
- e. Bless, not curse, those who persecute you.
- f. Weep with those who weep.
- g. Forget being haughty or wiser than you are.

- h. Live in peaceable harmony with everyone.
- i. This is an impossible possibility!

IV. GENUINE LOVE IS ROOTED IN KIN-DOM (19-21)

- a. Forget about sticking it to someone or wishing for their downfall.
- b. Feed your enemy and give them water.
- c. Love overcomes a multitude of evil.

Call to Action:

Perhaps there is no better way to end this morning than by allowing this text to be a covenant for all of us and our way in the world. If you are willing to ask God to transform you so that you and we will live like this then sign and date this as a testament to the Christ who is the burning center and the porous border of these ordinary times and extra-ordinary days.

Signature

Date