

Romans 12:9-18

CEB

Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home. Bless people who harass you—bless and don't curse them. Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart. Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good. If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people.

Lectio Divina

Prepare

Select a scripture and find a comfortable place to sit. Quiet your mind, taking a few deep breaths. Ask God to speak to you through the reading.

Read

Read the passage slowly. Listen for a word, phrase, or image that stands out to you. Repeat the word in your mind.

Reflect

Re-read the passage. Linger over the word, phrase, or image that captured your attention. Notice any feelings evoked within you. Ask God how this new awareness speaks to your life.

Pray

As you re-read the passage for the third time, consider how God might be inviting you to respond. Talk with God about what is on your heart.

Contemplate

Rest in the awareness of God's presence. Remain open to anything else that may be stirring within you. Thank God for your new awareness and know that you are loved.