LOVE

Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

08 - Zeal, eagerness

OUR DUTY TOWARD OTHERS:

To recognize their value and to treat them appropriately.

Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:10b (NIV)

I RECOGNIZE YOUR VALUE, AND I WANT OTHERS TO ALSO RECOGNIZE IT!

This is an expression of "love for neighbor."

OUR DUTY TOWARD OURSELVES:

What it <u>isn't</u>: It's NOT to demand that others recognize *our* value!

HEY, PEOPLE, LOOK AT ME!

NOT!!

I <u>DEMAND</u> THAT YOU RECOGNIZE MY VALUE, AND TELL OTHERS ABOUT IT! This would be an expression of "love for self."

(It's NOT "love for neighbor"!)



OUR DUTY TOWARD OURSELVES:

The answer is found in the next verse!

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your

but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Romans 12:11 (NIV)

I WANT TO <u>LIVE</u>

<u>WORTHY</u> OF ANY

HONOR THAT OTHERS

MAY GIVE ME!

This is an expression of "love for <u>neighbor</u>" (and for God).

There are TWO parts to this verse

1a → Never be lacking in zeal,

1b but keep your spiritual fervor, 2 serving the Lord.

Romans 12:11 (NIV)

PART 1 (a & b): "WHAT"

-The attitude we must have: the "negative" and "positive" outlook on how we do things.

• PART 2: "WHO"

–The one we are to do it for.

(This also gives us the reason for $\underline{\it not}$ focusing on "getting other people's praise"!)









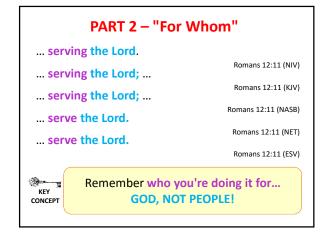
Your enthusiasm, motivation, eagerness for doing things...

WHAT IS IT LIKE?

Your "ZEAL"









SIN is NOT an option! You can't "SERVE THE LORD" with sin! ONLY things that are expressions of LOVE FOR GOD AND NEIGHBOR can fulfil this obligation!

More Scripture passages that illustrate the theme of our verse: NEHEMIAH AND THE JEWS (EAGER TO REBUILD THE WALL): So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

JESUS ("THRIVED" ON DOING THE WORK HE WAS SENT TO DO):

Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work.

John 4:34 (NLT); more important than food – Matthew 4:4

PAUL (EAGER TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS TO THE GENTILES):

... <u>I have fully presented the Good News</u> of Christ all the way from Jerusalem clear over into Illyricum.

My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else.

Romans 15:19b-20 (NLT)

For <u>I have worked harder</u> than all the other apostles, yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.

1 Cor. 15:10b (NLT)

VARIOUS COMMANDS (APPLICABLE TO ALL THAT WE DO):

<u>Make the most of every opportunity</u> for doing good in these evil days.

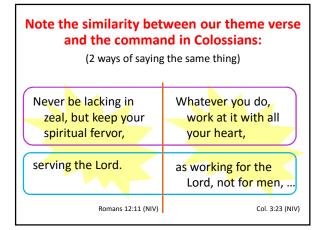
Ephes. 5:16 (NLT)

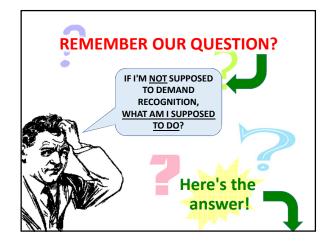
Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? <u>Run in such</u> a way that you may win.

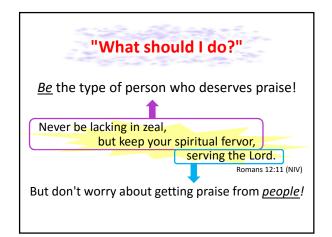
1 Cor. 9:24 (NASB)

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ...

Col. 3:23 (NIV)







IF you do these things (and do them for God)...

• You'll be *guaranteed* praise from the <u>only</u> source that is important!

At that time each will receive his praise from God.

1 Cor. 4:5b (NIV)

Your Mission.

WHATEVER YOU DO... DO IT WELL

AND

DO IT FOR GOD!

It's a **COMMAND!**

- Obeying it is like saying "I love you" to both God and neighbor"!
- It's also proof that you do love God and neighbor!

Credits (1)

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"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

Romans 12:11

"ZEAL" - Here, a focus on motivation - eagerness, enthusiasm, diligence; having an earnest desire to do something; eager and ready. (Most other passages with the word "zeal" are translated from a word that refers to one's commitment or loyalty to something. Examples - John 2:17; Romans 10:2.)

THIS CONCEPT APPLIES TO EVERYTHING WE DO!

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ... (Col. 3:23)

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might ... (Eccles. 9:10a)

Eagerness, Zeal: Selected Scripture Passages about This Eagerness

- Eagerness, diligence in serving God (required by us all) Rom. 12:11; and in leading others (if that is your gift) Rom. 12:8.
- Eagerness, diligence, making effort to grow (increase) in the manifestation of godly character traits - 2 Peter 1:5-7 (see also v. 10-11); and in love toward others - Hebrews 6:11 (v. 9-12).
- An earnest desire to deal with sin and to live a godly life 2
 Corinthians 7:11-12.

Scripture Passages with a Similar Theme

"Never be lacking"

- Don't become weary of doing what is good Gal. 6:9; 2 Thes.
 3:13.
- If you *do* become weary, consider Jesus and what he endured for us Hebrews 12:2-3.

"Keep your spiritual fervor"

- Whatever you do, do it with all your might (your opportunity will end when you die) Eccl. 9:10a.
- Do good to all people, especially *God's* people, every time you have the opportunity Gal. 6:10.
- Make the most of every opportunity, and do it wisely -Ephesians 5:15-16; Colossians 4:5.
- This is the purpose for which God saves people! Titus 2:14.

"Serving the Lord

- Whole-heartedly, for the Lord Col 3:23.
- Glorifying God in everything you do 1 Corinthians 10:31.

What is your "zeal" characterized by - your motivation or eagerness for doing things?

- "ENERGY" Fervent and "hot" guided by a spirit that has been made alive in Christ; motivated by love for others?
- "A YAWN" Lacking, lazy, slothful guided by feelings and impulses of the *flesh*, <u>de</u>-motivated by lack of love?

If God has made you alive, then live as one who is alive!

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