

# The Heart of the Matter

Lesson 17

Romans 12:9-21

<b>Bible Text</b> <b>New International Version</b>	<b>Observations</b> <b>What does the text say?</b>	<b>Interpretation &amp; Questions</b> <b>What does it mean to all Christians?</b>	<b>Applications</b> <b>What does it mean to me?</b>
<p><b>Romans 12:9-21</b></p> <p><b>Love in Action</b></p> <p><sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.</p> <p><sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.<sup>[c]</sup> Do not be conceited.</p> <p><sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"<sup>[d]</sup> says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary:</p> <p>"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."<sup>[e]</sup></p> <p><sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.</p>			

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<b>Footnotes:</b>  c. Romans 12:16 Or <i>willing to do menial work</i> d. Romans 12:19 Deut. 32:35 e. Romans 12:20 Prov. 25:21,22			
<b>Summary:</b>			

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Love in All Circumstances

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## Scriptures:

Matt. 5:43-48  
1 Cor. 13:4-7a

## Questions:

Who is difficult for you to love? How do you respond to them?  
Identify your “enemies.” What are some ways you can love them?

## Memory Verse:

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Rom. 12:12

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Lecture Notes

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