

Peace for the Journey ... June 23, 2010

Scripture Reading: [Romans 12:9-21](#)

Checklists are a common part of everyday life. From a shopping list used at the grocery store to a to-do list used to get ready for a vacation, having a checklist can be a great help. Even Santa, we are told, makes a list and checks it twice.

So while we may be stretching (slightly) the Apostle Paul's intention in the 12th chapter of Romans, we might think of today's reading as a kind of checklist for Christian life. (Paul says that these are marks of Christian life.) It may be helpful to take this chapter, copy and paste the words into a word processor and make a list. Then take the list with you into a time of prayer.* In the presence of God, ask yourself how many of these characteristics of Christian life are (honestly) found in you.

As you continue to grow in Christian life, faith, and discipleship -- as you continue to surrender yourself to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit -- you will find that Romans 12:9-21 more fully describes your life. If you persevere in prayer; are faithful in worship; read and study the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments; serve God; and share your gifts, talents and abilities; your life will be transformed.

Try this experiment: use Romans 12:9-21 as a checklist today. Then commit yourself to intentional Spiritual growth and formation for the next six months. After six months (mark your calendar) check yourself against Romans 12:9-21 again. The presence of God and power of the Holy Spirit will bring your life more fully into alignment with God's intention for your life.

Dear God: Thank you for your amazing grace which has transformed -- and continues to transform -- my life. As I surrender myself more fully to you today, let my life more fully reflect the words of Scripture. Fill me with your presence and power so that I might grow in faith and discipleship. Amen.

*Romans 12:9-21 (in the form of a checklist)

- Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
- love one another with mutual affection;
- outdo one another in showing honor.
- Do not lag in zeal,
- be ardent in spirit,
- serve the Lord.
- Rejoice in hope,
- be patient in suffering,
- persevere in prayer.
- Contribute to the needs of the saints;
- extend hospitality to strangers.
- Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
- Rejoice with those who rejoice,
- weep with those who weep.
- Live in harmony with one another;
- do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;
- do not claim to be wiser than you are.
- Do not repay anyone evil for evil,
- but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.
- If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
- Beloved, never avenge yourselves,

[] but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."
[] No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them;
[] if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."
[] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.