

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 12:9-14**.
- B. In this series we have looked at several things that love is and what love is not.
- C. Love is patient and kind. It is not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, unseemly, or proud.
- D. Today we want to see how love is not irritable or resentful.

I. THE IRRITATION EXPLOSION.

- A. A "paroxysm" is a sudden, violent action or emotion. It can mean a convulsion or a fit.
- B. There are at least three "paroxysms" in Scripture:
 - 1. Paul in Athens (Ac. 17:16).
Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was beholding the city full of idols.
 - 2. Paul and Barnabas (Ac. 15:39).
And there arose such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.
 - 3. To stir one another up, "to jolt one another" (Heb. 10:24).
and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,
- C. But anger is not all bad. Anger can be a good thing if handled properly. If anger, leads you to uphold truth, protect human rights, oppose rampant evil, or defend an important principle it is good (Eph. 5:26).
that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
- D. The point is that we need to know where our "boiling point" is.
(Story of man at a meeting not exploding as in past.)
- E. Solutions to the "irritation explosion:"
 - 1. **Know your "triggering circumstances"** that bring you to the boiling point.
 - 2. Remember you are called by God **to serve not to be served** (get rid of self).
 - 3. Develop a **long-range view of life** to see if something is worth exploding about.
 - 4. **Pray about the circumstances** you have trouble controlling. Never try to solve a problem without prayer.

II. THE RESENTFUL MEMORY.

- A. The NAS and NIV says that love, "keeps no record of wrongs."
- B. Revenge is a main ingredient in TV westerns and other shows. We vicariously enjoy seeing the bad guys "get theirs" in the end.
- C. When we practice revenge, what kind of world are we advocating? Go ahead and get your gun, to get even, but remember there is a gun pointing in your back too.
- D. Or we can do the opposite thing; instead of trying to get even, "we take our bat and ball and go home."
- E. The Greek, *logidzomai* means to "take into account" as in a ledger. "Love does not enter into a ledger evil to be considered later" (2Cor. 5:19).
namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.
- F. God does not want "to get even" He wants to save us (Jn. 3:16-17).
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him."
- G. Does not keeping an account of wrongs, mean that we should overlook or ignore all wrongdoing? NO! Wrongdoers are to be punished by the government (Rom. 13:1-7), but the spirit and practice of personal vengeance is contrary to God's nature.
- H. Wrongdoers are to be punished, but in such a way that is profitable to him/her.

- I. People deserve a second chance. Especially in the church! Peter thought he was so spiritual when he told X he could forgive his brother seven times! Even if it's 70 x 7, love keeps no record of wrongs (Mt. 18:21-22).

Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" **22** Jesus said^ to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

- J. Jim Morris was right, let anyone get mad at you, except the brethren.

- K. Overcoming the resentful memory:

1. **Take thought for what is right** in the sight of all (Rom. 12:17).
Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.
2. **Never take your own vengeance**; let a bro. or sis. help you give it to God (Rom. 12:17-19).
Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. **19** Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.
3. **Overcome evil with good**; evil never overcomes evil (Rom. 12:20,21).
"BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS UPON HIS HEAD." [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
4. **Practice reconciliation**; to exchange enmity for friendship (2Cor. 5:19-20).
namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. **20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Love is not irritable. Love is not resentful. Love never fails. What a different church it would be if we could practice this. What a different world it would be if mankind could do this.
- B. The next lesson in this series returns to the positive, as we shall see love rejoices at the right things. Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but in the truth.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.