

LOOK^{TO} GOD

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1 PART

THIS WEEKS READING

READ ROMANS 12

INTRODUCTION

When we desire closeness to God, it means that we are willing to follow what He says. Our opinions need to change to fit His will and not our own. In Romans chapter 12 we see that Paul gives us a list of practical actions we can take to show people the love of God while changing our own hearts and minds in the process.

Specifically, we are told in verse 9 to love without hypocrisy. This means that we cannot love one set of people and not another. We are to love regardless of the person that we are dealing with. This can be very difficult as we struggle to work out differences in opinions and even as we try to stand up for what we believe in.

God is concerned with our glorification of Him and not so much with our feelings about that. When we find it difficult to change, He is able to help and to carry us further. When we struggle to want to love, He is able to give us the love that we need to share with difficult people. Mostly, God is concerned with His glory and how we change to make sure that He is getting the maximum amount of glorification from our own lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you find it difficult to change when the Bible disagrees with you? Why or why not?
2. What is one area of your life that God has asked you to change that you have not been able to, even though you know it does not line up with His will? Is there anything that a close relation can help to get you to that point to change?
3. Do you find it difficult to love others? Specifically, what is one way that you can show love to someone else even when they disagree with you?
4. Out of the list found in Romans 12, what is one area that you could change in? Will that be an easy change, or a hard change? What are the practical steps to making that change?
5. Why do you think that God wants us to change to His standard and not the other way around? Does that make you comfortable? How can we better be open to His guidance and how has He chosen to guide us in those changes?

WRAP UP

God desires us to be Holy as He is Holy. There is no middle ground in holiness and we must make changes in how we think and act towards others if we are to live a life that is governed by the One we call King. This can be a difficult path and one that is not too popular. In the end, we need to care less about what others think about us and more about how we can give glory to God through our thoughts and actions.