



## MERCIFUL LIVING with ONE ANOTHER by the Mercies of God in Christ

Lesson 2 • Romans 12:9-16

### Everyone Could Use a Little More Mercy

- Moms need more mercy just like the rest of us do!
- Moms need to show more mercy to their families just like we all need to toward one another!

### Three Truths about Merciful Living

**Truth #1** Merciful living with one another is \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 9-21)

- It is not easily managed!
- It happens in random acts of kindness!

**Truth #2** Merciful living is messy, but it \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 9-16)

#### 12 Ways to Show Mercy to One Another

**1. Sincerity:** Let *the* love be real for one another! (v. 9)

*"Let love be genuine."* ESV

**2. Purity:** Radically reject what is evil and permanently velcro yourself to God's best for one another! (v. 9)

*"Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good."* ESV

*"Love is not genuine when it leads a person to do something evil or to avoid doing what is right—as defined by God in His Word."* ~Doug Moo

*"It may seem strange that the exhortation to love is followed immediately by a command to hate. But we should not be surprised. For love is not the blind sentiment it is traditionally said to be. On the contrary, it is discerning. It is so passionately devoted to the beloved object that it hates every evil which is incompatible with his or her highest welfare."* ~John Stott

**3. Loyalty:** Be devoted to one another like the blood-bought, born again family that you are! (v. 10)

*"Love one another with brotherly affection."* ESV; *"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love."* NIV; *"Show family affection to one another with brotherly love."* HCSB

**4. Positivity:** Outdo one another in honoring to one another! (v. 10)

*"Outdo one another in showing honor."* ESV; *"Take delight in honoring one another."* NLT; *"Showing eagerness in honoring one another."* NET

What's the Tone in Your Home?	
Is it tense and critical and filled with nagging?	Is it tender and caring and filled with bragging?
Is it a place you want to run from?	Is it a place you want to run to?
Is it a place that prizes others?	Is it a place that picks at others?
Is it a home that honors what the world honors?	Is it a home that honors what God honors?

**5. Intensity:** Refuse to be a spiritual sluggard in serving one another and the Lord! (v. 11)

*"Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord."* **ESV**; *"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."* **NIV**; *"Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically."* **NLT**

**6. Tenacity:** Persevere with one another through the hard times with joyful hope and persistent prayer! (v. 12)

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."* **ESV**

*"Chin up and knees down!"* ~V. Raymond Edman, Wheaton College President

**7. Generosity:** Always be ready to do your part to meet one another's physical needs! (v. 13)

*"Contribute to the needs of the saints"* **ESV**

**8. Hospitality:** Always be eager to open your heart and home to one another, especially those you don't know very well! (v. 13)

*"and seek to show hospitality."* **ESV**

**9. Pity:** Wish the best for one another even when you do the worst to one another! (v. 14)

*"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them."* **ESV**

**10. Sensitivity:** Share in one another's feelings! (v. 15)

*"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."* **ESV**

**11. Solidarity:** Be of one mind toward one another to live with one heart with one another! (v. 16)

*"Live in harmony with one another."* **ESV**; *"Be of the same mind toward one another"* **NAS**

**12. Humility:** Never be too proud to connect or reconcile with one another! (v. 16)

*"Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight."* **ESV**; *"Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody."* **MSG**; *"Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!"* **NLT**

**Truth #3 Merciful living is \_\_\_\_\_ by the mercies of God to us in Christ.**

- It is **only possible** by the mercies of God in Christ! *Romans 12:1-2*
- It's **ultimate purpose** is to glorify God's mercy in Christ! *Romans 15:8-13*

**Merciful Living Is Messy but Makes a Difference when Its Motivated by the Mercies of God in Christ!**

- **PICK THREE:** Pick the 3 you are the weakest at and reflect on how God has shown you mercy in Christ in these same 3 areas. Then glorify God's mercy to you in Christ by working at showing this same kind of mercy to others around you.
- **SUMMER PROJECT:** Focus on 1 of the 12 ways to show mercy every week for the 3 summer months. You might want to: Memorize one-a-week or meditate on one-a-week or study one-a-week or pray one-a-week over your relational network. Most of all, look for ways to apply each one for a week.
- **MAKE IT PERSONAL:** Ask the Lord to lay on your heart 2 or 3 people that really need more mercy from you. Pray for them and think through which of the 12 ways you need to show them more mercy *by the mercies of God in Christ*.