

In Romans 12:9-21, Paul gives us a list of practical exercises to follow, that are expansions of the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23.

- Love people with sincerity, genuinely. Really love people, not faking it.
- Detest evil, Love good
  - ◆ What things do we like that fall into the evil category?
    - Revenge?
    - Senseless violence?
    - Occult practices
    - Gaining power
- Love each other like family
- Being humble, we should seek to put others above ourselves. We should treat every man as an equal, taking special concern for those who might be perceived as in a lower position in life (homeless, support staff).
  - ◆ Demonstrates authenticity
  - ◆ Demonstrates the real value of man
- We should be diligent at work
  - ◆ This helps communicate the gospel by removing barriers to hearing
- We should be passionate (about things in general, and that means about our faith)
  - ◆ Why is this important?
- Our lives should be directed entirely by God
  - ◆ Barring specific direction, we should obey what we have been told in scripture as we pursue the passions God has given us (for our professions, hobbies, etc...)
- We should express contentment and joy because of the hope we have due to God's promises to finish His work, to redeem His possessions, to live with us on a new earth
  - ◆ It demonstrates the authenticity and truthfulness of the gospel
- To pray often, consistently, with diligence
  - ◆ We need to have open lines of communication, so that we can both draw strength and comfort from God when we need it, and so that God can communicate what He wants us to do when He needs it.
- To make sure that every christian has what they need if we have the ability to provide it. (we should suffer in common and experience success in common)
  - ◆ This shows the core values of God to people.
- We should be hospitable, opening up our homes and lives to anyone who needs it.
  - ◆ This shows that we value people more than things
- We should respond to all evil with good. This means coming up with nice things to do for our enemies. Blessing those who curse us. Loving (looking for and providing good for) those who hate us, or abuse us. We should extend grace to people who wrong us, forgiving the wrongs. We should have no reason to seek vengeance, because we know that God will balance the scales in the end. Instead, we should love our enemies.
  - ◆ This shows that we care about people more than we care about ourselves, that our motives are pure.

- ◆ This shows people what Jesus did for them and us on the cross, a living example of the Gospel
- We should empathize with people, joining with them with they are happy, excited, sad or grieving.
  - ◆ This is community, love in action.
- We should be open and honest about our dealings with all people.
  - ◆ The builds trust and removes barriers to communicating the gospel.
- We should avoid violence unless it is absolutely necessary, seeking all options for peace before defending ourselves. (<http://www.biblicalselfdefense.com/>,  
<http://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/paul-coughlin/christian-self-defense-11581252.html>,  
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/frenchrevolution/2012/07/27/the-biblical-and-natural-right-of-self-defense/> )