

GOD'S NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS FOR HIS CHILDREN?

Romans 12:10-13

Let me pose a question to you this 1st Sunday of 2018, if God were to have a list of New Year's Resolutions for His children what would they be?

Romans 12:10-13.

Let me give you some framework for what we are about to study that what we read in most of the New Testament Letters and Epistles are actually answers to questions that have been brought to the Apostles from Churches they have planted or ministered in.

- **Romans 12:1-2**

In those 4 verses I think that we see 7 New Year's Resolutions that God would have for His children.

1. **Have I been devoted to my brothers and sisters in love? (verse 10a)**
 - Devoted – loyal, faithful, true, steadfast, constant, committed.
 - What was the Apostle Paul thinking of here?
 - **Psalm 133:1**
 - Maybe his mind went to a time found in **Acts 15** where he and Barnabas had such a sharp disagreement that they could no longer go on ministering together.
 - **I Thessalonians 4:9-10**
 - How many of you this morning have a relationship that you see as irreconcilable?
2. **Have I given preference to my brothers and sisters with honor? (verse 10b)**
 - The Moody Bible Commentary puts it this way. “*Being eager to value or promote the reputation of another.*”
 - John the Baptist – “*He must increase, but I must decrease.*” **John 3:30.**
3. **Have I been diligent and fervent in serving my Lord.? (verse 11)**
 - **I Corinthians 15:58**
 - We have as part of our New Member's Class a statement that we share: “*We are a Pastor led, congregationally approved, ministry driven church.*”

- Are you a Steam Engine or a Passenger Car this morning?
4. **Have I rejoiced in hope (confidence) and persevering (determined) in my tribulations (troubles)? (verse 12)**
- *“God, who foresaw your tribulation, has specially armed you to go through it, not without pain but without stain”* - C.S. Lewis
 - ***You will find yourself in a storm in 2018, the challenge is not to let the storm find itself in you.***
5. **Have I been devoted in prayer this week? (verse 12)**
- When we pray we admit two things:
 - I cannot do this on my own.
 - I know that you can God.
 - How many of you this morning believe that “prayer works”, then why do most Christians do so little of it?
6. **Have I contributed to the needs of the saints through my church? (verse 13)**
- The word “share “in this verse in the Greek is the word “koinoneo’ which means to share.
 - Koinonia - The essential meaning of the *koinonia* embraces concepts conveyed in the English terms community, communion, joint participation, sharing and intimacy.
7. **Have I practiced hospitality this week? (verse 13)**
- Let me pose a question for you today, “how can you use your home to spread the Gospel?”
 - **Luke 16**
 - Lydia -the first convert in Europe.
 - After she was baptized she opened her home for Paul and his missionary team to stay.
 - Invest and invite.