

Spiritual Growth 101

Romans 12:1-21

Series: How To Be A Christian Without Being Religious – Part 2

Introduction

I was “stuck,” my heart was pounding, the halls were empty, I was late for class, and I was all alone...all because I couldn’t get my locker open.

How to Get Your Spiritual Locker Open

The Combination = **G₅₆, Q₂, R₁₂**

G₅₆ = The **only thing** that matters is...– Galatians 5:6

Q₂ = **Two questions** to clarify your life – Matthew 22:34-40

R₁₂ = How to **know** if you’re loving God and your neighbor – Romans 12:1-21

How To Know If You're Loving God And Your Neighbor

◆ Loving God With All Your HEART Involves...

¹I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

- A Correct Motivation
- A Special Offering
- A Specific Presentation

◆ Loving God With All Your MIND Involves...

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. ⁴For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

- Saying "No" To The World
- Saying "Yes" To The World
- Thinking Accurately About Yourself
- Thinking Accurately About Others

◆ **Loving God With All Your SOUL Involves...**

⁶And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- **Recognize** That You Are A Steward, Not An Owner
- **Know** What Spiritual Gifts You Possess
- **Exercise** Your Gifts To Their Maximum Potential

◆ **Loving Your Neighbor As Yourself Begins with A SPECIFIC COMMITMENT To God's Family**

⁹Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; ¹¹not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹²rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted in prayer, ¹³contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

- Relational Authenticity
- Personal Purity
- Corporate Dependency
- Genuine Humility
- Motivational Integrity
- Financial Sacrifice
- Proactive Hospitality

◆ **Loving Your Neighbor As Yourself Extends To A SPECIFIC PRACTICE Toward Your Enemies**

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. ¹⁷Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. ¹⁹Never 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. ²⁰"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." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- **Bless Those Who Persecute You**
- **Refuse To Take Revenge**
- **Repay Evil With Good**

Application/Discussion Questions

1. In what ways is your spiritual locker stuck?
2. Romans 12 provides specific and practical means to evaluate your love for God and people. How are you doing?
3. In what way did God speak to you today?
4. What specific step of obedience do you need to take to allow your faith to express genuine love for God and others?