
¹⁶ *Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*

¹⁷ *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.*

¹⁸ *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

¹⁹ *Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

²⁰ *On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."*

²¹ *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

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Endurance and Conflict

The Life and Ministry of Paul—part 6

July 31, 2016

Endurance

■ Attitude Adjustors ■

The ability to endure, is one of the hallmarks of Christian maturity.

Romans 5:3 More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

2 Corinthians 4:16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day.¹⁷ For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,¹⁸ because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory.¹¹ The saying is sure: If we have died

with him, we shall also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we shall also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; ¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful -- for he cannot deny himself.

- *2 Tim. 4:5...always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.*

A realistic view of life and the Christian life

Acts 14:21b Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, ...

- *Acts 14:22 ...strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.*

- *Acts 14:12 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.*

Acts 14:24 After going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia, ²⁵ and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. ²⁶ From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

- *Acts 14:27 On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.*

Conflict

Desertion:

Acts 13:13 From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to

Jerusalem.

Different kinds of conflict:

Acts 15:36 Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing."

³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, ³⁸ but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.

³⁹ They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left. ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

How to think about conflict; How to respond; How to build relationships

Proverbs 18:2 A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.

- *Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.*

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
