
The power of the gospel to overcome evil (vv. 20-21)

Romans 12:20 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."

The principle is simple: undeserved kindness.

Romans 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

No human being flourishes in isolation.
We need a certain kind of community.

Key:

Page 1: learn; united; belongs; devoted; responsible.

Page 2: individual;

Page 3: multiplies; divides;

Page 4: undeserved.

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Spiritual Love Displayed

Isolation—part 7

June 5, 2022

Church community is the relational laboratory

The context of this passage from Romans...

Rom. 12:3 For by grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

5 big picture ideals

1. I will always need to learn to love better.
 2. Pursue being united, though diverse.
 3. Each member belongs to all the others.
 4. Be devoted to one another.
 5. Each of us is relationally responsible.
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Learning to love in different situations

Learning how to love, in community (vv. 9-10)

Romans 12:9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

“Sincere” –

Paul is giving us a lifetime goal to which we aspire.

Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

“Devoted” –

Finding meaning by engaging with people. (vv. 11-13)

Romans 12:11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Zeal -

In a world searching for personal meaning, these verses give great meaning to our lives.

Meaning is not an individual sport.

Relating to “difficult” people (vv. 14-16)

Romans 12:14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

Happiness shared multiplies happiness.
Sorrows shared divides our sorrows.

Romans 12:16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Relating to your enemies (vv. 17-19)

Item #1:

Romans 12:17 ...Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

Item #2:

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Item #3:

Romans 12:19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath...

Item #4:

Romans 12:19... but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.