

ROMANS 12:14-21

Getting Along Outside Our Walls

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

I. _____ the grace you need so you're able to graciously seek _____ .

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. v. 16

II. _____ to persecution with _____ .

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. v. 14

III. _____ to others' highs and lows to show you _____ .

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. v. 15

IV. _____ with blessing instead of seeking _____ .

Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. vv. 17-18

V. _____ control, leaving room for God to _____ .

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." vv. 19-20

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you ..." Matthew 5:43-44

In Light of
Christ

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Romans 12:14-21. According to this passage, what is to be our response when wrongs are done to us? Why is this so difficult?

"The willingness to lower yourself by listening and understanding the culture, worldview and background of those you engage opens doors for communicating the gospel of love. It reveals that you are interested in winning the person instead of the debate."

ED STETZER

"When an enemy deliberately causes harm, we are to let it go unanswered. Now, allow me to clarify. This is not a situation in which one person in a relationship causes harm to another and must be confronted in order to restore the bond. In that case, we must follow the procedure outlined by Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17. Here, Paul was referring to the deeds of an enemy—presumably someone outside the body of Christ, though not necessarily!—by which he or she clearly intends to harm another. Confrontation would be pointless. Paul's advice: *Let it go*. Note the reason we are to set aside our revenge. It is to 'leave room for the wrath of God' (Rom 12:19). ... However, the wrath of God is always redemptive, never retaliatory or spiteful. During this age of grace, the wrath of God pursues the sinner, cuts off his escape, confronts her with the consequences of sin, chastises him and makes her continued sin miserable. Why? To bring the individual to repentance. To give him or her grace. To redeem our enemy as He has redeemed all believers. When we take our own revenge, we dare to stand between God and His beloved, whom He may choose to pursue. Furthermore, we presume to take the Creator's place on the seat of judgment in the life of another creature."

CHARLES SWINDOLL

2. Why is it wrong to repay evil with evil (vv. 14, 17, 19-21)?

3. It's easy and natural for us to *be overcome by evil* (v. 21), or to simply join in on how people around us behave. How might following the principles in this passage lead us instead to *overcome evil*?

4. If we simply pretend to forgive in order to make another person feel guilty, why haven't we fulfilled Paul's instructions?

5. How can we be sure that our kindness to an enemy comes from a sincere love?

6. Verse 18 expresses a note of realism—relationships are a two-way street, and peace may not occur if the other person does not want it. How might this encourage you about the difficult relationships in your life?

7. Most of us have people in our lives whose interests and values are so different from ours that we would hardly think of them as friends. Bring to mind one of these people who has particularly made your life difficult. Skim through verses 9-21 with that person in mind. What do you find here that might lead you to "live peaceably" with them? What practical step could you take in that direction? Ask God to give you an opportunity.

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)

2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)

3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA Our upcoming Christmas Cantata is a breathtaking musical experience and one of our favorite ways to launch the Christmas celebration here at Christ Chapel! Various times are available for you to join in on both Saturday and Sunday, and we'd love for all of us to bring friends and family to this spectacular start to Christmas at Christ Chapel. Find details at www.ccbcfamily.org/cantata.



PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH God continues to make a way for His church, but there are still believers all over the world facing persecution.

Together, we can pray for their safety, endurance and peace as they bring the gospel to all corners of the world. Will you join us in praying for them? Scan the QR code to learn more!

FOSTER.ADOPT. MINISTRY We are committed to making a difference in the lives of children in the foster and adoption community! Our Local Outreach ministry has various ways you can get involved, including supporting families involved in fostering and adoption, becoming a CASA advocate or pursuing foster and adoption. If you believe God has gifted you to serve and pursue this ministry, let us know by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/fosteradopt.

DTS LUNCH AND LEARN: DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS As disciples of Jesus, we're all learning how to interact and converse with people who have different perspectives! Today, Nov. 17 at 3:30 P.M., we have the chance to hear from Dr. Darrell Bock on this topic! Hard conversations happen in the office, during family dinners and beyond, and together, let's become more equipped to navigate those conversations with grace and truth inside and outside of our church walls. Registration and details can be found at www.ccbcfamily.org/dts.

MORE THAN A SHOEBOX Operation Christmas Child is a ministry that sends Christmas gifts and the gospel message to children in need around the world every year – and you can help by filling a shoebox this holiday season with necessities and toys! When you leave the service today, make sure to grab a shoebox or two. We'll be collecting from now to Sunday, Nov. 24. Learn more at www.ccbcfamily.org/occ.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE The process is quick and easy—scan the QR Code to start.