



ROMANS

The Gospel of God

The Gospel of Redeemed Life!

Romans 12:11-21

Message #28 of 33 – S1160

Sermon given on July 27, 2025



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel of Redeemed Life!

Romans 12:11-21

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Romans 12**
- Today, we continue the series through the letter to the Romans – **The Gospel of God!**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Gospel of Redeemed Life!**
- Romans 12 is very practical for everyday living.
- We got to verse 10 last time, but I thought a quick review might be useful.
- It begins with the basis for why Paul is telling us these things.
- **Romans 12:1**
- The mercies of God saved us from ending up like the rest of the world, wandering in darkness forever.
- The better we understand everything God did to save us, the more we want to know and do His will.
- But that is not going to be something we do naturally.
- **Romans 12:2**
- To fully benefit from the relationship we have with Christ, we must allow the Holy Spirit to change the way we think.
- Changing the way we think will change the way we live.
- He then shifted to speak about the unity we have in Christ with Christ-followers and the spiritual gifts we were given to work together to do God's will in the world.
- **Romans 12:3-8**
- Discovering how God made you and gifted you for the work He appointed to you is one of the exciting parts of our faith.
- **Romans 12:9-10**
- And then last time, we saw the importance of love and builds upon the unity of the body and facilitate the work of the ministry.
- That brings us to verse 11.

- Starting here to the end of the chapter are about 17 things Paul exhorts the Roman believers to aspire to in their faith.
- These are characteristics of Christ.
- This is where God is trying to get us all to be. **Romans 8:29**

²⁹ **For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

- A list like this can be overwhelming.
- Ultimately, God wants you to master all of them, and many others in many other lists in the Bible.
- God knows us – He knows we can't do them all at once.
- As we go through this list, listen to the voice of God the Holy Spirit, He will guide you to one He would like to work on.
- As we work on one, He is using that one to work on others.
- The first set of three.

• **Romans 12:11**

- Verses 1 and 2 of this chapter call us to be living sacrifices.
- These verses help us to see what that means.
- 'not lagging in diligence' - Diligence can also mean eagerness.
- Be eager to express love to others and don't be lazy.
- That doesn't mean we can't rest – there is a difference between resting and being lazy.
- 'fervent in spirit' – has the sense of being passionate about loving others and God.
- 'serving the Lord' – Expressing love to others, especially one another, other Christ-followers, is one of the ways we serve God. It is not optional for Christ-followers. **1 John 4:7-8**

⁷ **Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

- Loving God is serving God and serving God is loving God.
- And this verse tells us we should be eager to do that and not lazy and to do it with passion.
- Paul continues these quick exhortations.

• **Romans 12:12**

- 'rejoicing in hope' – if you have the hope of heaven through Christ, you always have something to rejoice about.

- Even when things are hard.
- ‘patient in tribulation’ – Trials, difficulties, troubles, distress are a part of living in a fallen world. But those difficult things should not wreck us. **John 16:33**

³³ **These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**

- We can put up with the hard things of life, because Jesus has overcome the world.
- That means He will carry you through to the other side of those hard things, no matter how dark the valley of the shadow of death gets,
- He is with us.
- ‘continuing steadfastly in prayer’ – Prayer is the blood in the veins of our love.
- Prayer is not an uber-spiritual thing holy mystics do.
- Prayer is talking to God about the things of our life.
- We can make prayer very religious, but it is not meant to be that way.
- It should be natural, personal, and from the heart.
- Paul turns back to our relationship with Christ-followers.

• **Romans 12:13**

- ‘distributing to the needs of the saints’ – distributing has the idea of sharing.
- Christ-followers should be generous, because God is generous.
- If you become aware of a need within the body or church and you can meet that need, be generous.
- God can give you much more than you give to others.
- An example, is the carpets were desperately in need of cleaning.
- A couple in the church came and moved everything out of there and cleaned.
- They weren’t asked to do, they could see the need and shared their time and energy to get it done.
- The next one is one of the hard ones.

• **Romans 12:14**

- To bless some is to invoke divine favor.
- It means asking God to do something good for another person.

- We should bless or ask for divine favor on our marriage, family, church, and country.
- But Paul says we should do it for people who persecute us.
- If someone causes you to suffer, ask God to do something good for them.
- Don't do what comes naturally – don't curse them.
- Don't ask God to do something terrible to them, ask Him to bless them.
- That's not easy, but if God tells us to do it, we can and must.
- The next one feels more natural.
- **Romans 12:15**
- 'rejoice with those who rejoice' – That sounds easy, but we need to watch out for pride and covetousness.
- We might get jealous when someone is blessed in a way that we haven't been.
- Rejoice with them, celebrate with them, praise God for His grace to them.
- 'weep with those who weep' – We should care about people enough to care about the things they are going through.
- I probably won't be able to feel what they are feeling but I should be sensitive enough to try to comfort them in their grief.
- Paul then focuses on how we should think about each other.
- **Romans 12:16**
- Guard your mind from comparing yourself to others.
- Even a small amount of pride will cause us to think of ourselves in an ungodly way.
- That is how the devil thinks. **2 Corinthians 10:4-5**
- **⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...**
- The next one is not natural either.
- **Romans 12:17**
- 'Repay no one evil for evil.' - One of the aspects of being made in the image of God is an innate desire for justice.

- When an evil is done, it must be punished.
- The problem is that fallen man is incapable of rendering godly justice.
- That doesn't mean that man should not render justice – we will see God's plan for that in the next chapter.
- Jesus gave us our marching orders on that. **Matthew 5:38-39**
- ³⁸ **You have heard that it was said, '*An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.*'**
- ³⁹ **But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.**
- 'Have regard for good things...' Instead of responding to evil with evil, consider or think about doing good instead.
- That leads us naturally into the next verse.
- **Romans 12:18**
- To live peaceably with others, we need to be thinking about doing what is in their best interests, we need to be thinking about doing good for them.
- We can't be focused on the evil they have done to us or worse, thinking about getting back at them for that evil.
- It is not always possible to live peaceably with some people.
- The question is, have you done everything you can to make peace possible?
- Paul then tells us why we shouldn't respond to evil with evil, even though humanly, we might be justified.
- **Romans 12:19**
- Paul is telling us to let God handle it.
- The phrase 'give place to wrath' means if God is going to avenge you, you need to get out of the way so He can do it.
- God is just, perfectly right in everything He does, including pouring out His wrath on those who deserve it.
- Or harder to accept is when God doesn't pour out His wrath when or the way we want Him to.
- What is inferred here is if you choose to avenge yourself, God will not help you and you are trying to take God's place.
- If you do something, He might not bring the justice He would have otherwise.
- Let God do it – He does it perfectly.

- **Romans 12:20-21**

- Instead of evil or vengeance, do good to those who don't deserve it.
- After all, that's how God dealt with your sin.
- Respond to evil with good, respond to hate with kindness, respond to persecution with patience.
- The key to doing those things, is trusting God completely.
- The more we trust God, the easier it is to do the things Paul is exhorting us to in this text. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

- It might not make a lot of sense to the people around you, and it might not even make sense to you, but when you do what Paul is exhorting us to do here, the love of Christ is on full display.
- We are called to living examples of the love of God.
- That is what Jesus meant in ... **Matthew 5:14-16**

¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- As you do these things, the world is seeing Christ's light shining out of you.
- The better you do it, the brighter His light shines.
- We get better at it as our faith grows.
- Keep growing church and keep shining.
- Again, don't be overwhelmed by the list.
- Let the Holy Spirit lead you to one to work on.
- If you need help, ask for it.
- We love to help God's people experience more of the love of our amazing God.
- **Pray! Last Song!**