

Romans 12:11-18 - The Gospel of Redeemed Life!

Scriptures:

1 John 4:7-8 - 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.

¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit,

G3636 - lazy, idle, not active.

G4710 – “eagerness n. — excited fervor to do something or accomplish some end.”

G2204 -

G4151 – “inclination ⇔ soul n. — a person’s emotional dispositions considered collectively and understood by the seat of emotional faculties, the soul; especially as positively or negatively disposed toward God.”

serving the Lord;

G1398 – [Verb, Present, Active]

Notes:

[verse 11]

‘not lagging in diligence’

Diligence can also mean eagerness. Be eager to express love to others and don’t be 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](#)

Loving God is serving God and serving God is loving God. In a similar way, loving God is loving others and loving others is loving God. Serving others is serving God and serving others is serving God. And this verse tells us we should be eager to do that and not lazy and to

Notes:

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

‘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](#)

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.

All the verbs in this section are in the Present tense, active voice. That means we are to be doing them now and to keep on doing them, including this next one.

‘continuing steadfastly in prayer’ – Prayer is the blood in the veins of our love. Prayer is not uber-spiritual thing the 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.

Scriptures:

John 16:33 - 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.

¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation,

G5278 – “to persevere v. — to be persistent; refuse to stop.”

G2347 - trouble, distress, oppression.

continuing steadfastly in prayer;

G4342 - persist, keep on with devotion.

Scriptures:

13 distributing to the needs of the saints,

G2841 – share.

G5532 -

given to hospitality.

G1377 – “to pursue (activity) v. — to carry out or participate in an activity.”

G5381 - φιλοξενία (philoxenia) – “hospitality n. — kindness in welcoming guests or strangers.”

‘given to hospitality’ – The Greek word translated as hospitality is ‘philoxenia’ and is literally lover of strangers. Hospitality is about making people feel welcome. We most commonly think about this in our home, but it also applies in our church home. One of my desires for this church is that every person that walks into this church feels welcomed. Just last week one of the ladies of the church told me that the very first time she came I hugged her, and it made her feel welcomed. I believe we should all be making everyone feel welcome here.

The next one might feel harder than the rest.

Notes:

Paul turns back to our relationship with Christ-followers.

[Verse 13]

‘distributing to the needs of the saints’ – distributing has the idea of sharing. Christ-followers should be generous, because God is generous. Everything you have came from God, including the ability to make money to buy things for ‘yourself’. 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.

As an example, we have chickens, and they usually produce more eggs our family can eat, so we share the extras. Another example, and I won’t name them, is the carpets. They were desperately in need of cleaning. A couple in the church came and moved everything out of here and cleaned. They weren’t asked to do, they could see the need and shared their time and energy to get it done.

Scriptures:

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and

G2127 – “to bless (favor) v. — to invoke (or enact) divine favor, often implying a positive disposition or kind actions toward the recipient.”

G1377 – “to persecute v. — to cause to suffer, whether physically or emotionally.”

do not curse.

G2672 – “to curse (invoke harm) v. — to invoke divine harm or evil upon someone or something.”

Notes:

To bless someone 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, favor, 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 natural – 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, we can and must.

The next one feels more natural.

Scriptures:

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep

Notes:

'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.

with those who weep.

'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 to try to comfort them in their grief.

Paul then focuses on how we should think about each other.

Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 - 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...

16 Be of the same mind toward one another.

Notes:

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](#)

Do not set your mind on high things, but

G5308 -

associate with the humble. Do not be wise in

G4879 – “to accommodate oneself v. — to make oneself compatible with (another).”

your own opinion.

G1438 -

Scriptures:
Matthew 5:38-39 - 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.

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for

G4306 – “to make provision v. — to provide or take measures in preparation for.”

Notes:
[verse 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 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](#)

'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.

good things in the sight of all men.

Scriptures:

18 If it is possible, as much as depends on

G1415 -

you, live peaceably with all men.

G1514 - behave in a way to promote harmony.

Notes:
To live peaceably with others, we need to be thinking our 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.

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