

Romans

Good News for a Broken World

Outline of Romans 12:9-21

- Relating to fellow believers in the church (12:9-13; 15-16)
- Relating to unbelievers in the wider society (12:14; 17-21)

Central Idea of Romans 12:9-21

In the midst of a hostile culture, believers are to demonstrate genuine love to one another and live at peace with everyone.

Next Steps from Romans 12:9-21

- Will you determine to pray over these 29 imperatives every day this week and consider how you might put them into practice?
- Will you plan out one or two ways you can love someone at CBC practically and tangibly this week?
- Will you commit to the Christian ethic of nonretaliation and leave all judgement to God?

Sermon Notes

Quotes from the Sermon

- I do not think any of us can love in the way the Bible asks us to without the enabling grace of God. Love is not something that can ever be entirely the product of the human will. But our wills are involved. The Spirit may foster love within us. But it is our job to cooperate with the Spirit in developing a consistent mind-set of love toward others and to work actively at putting love into effect in the various relationships we find ourselves involved in. - Douglas J. Moo
- We are not just to receive the stranger when he comes to us, but actually to enquire after, and look carefully for, strangers, to pursue them and search them out everywhere, lest perchance somewhere they may sit in the streets or lie without a roof over their heads. - Origen (A.D. 185-254)
- Who are the “lowly”? They’re those from whom we don’t receive anything. We don’t receive any financial benefit, social benefit, intellectual benefit, or personal benefit. We’re to make a point of associating with them. To do this, we can’t be “haughty.” - J. Stephen Yuille
- To see a poor man, traveling the country, hungry, thirsty, weary, accompanied by poor men... Who would have ever thought that this was the Creator of the world, the Prince of the kings of the earth? - John Flavel (1628-1691)
- Retaliation and revenge are absolutely forbidden to the followers of Jesus. He himself never hit back in either word or deed. And in spite of our inborn retributive tendency, ranging from the child’s tit for tat to the adult’s more sophisticated determination to get even with an opponent, Jesus calls us instead to imitate him. To be sure, there is a place for the punishment of evildoers in the law courts, and Paul will come to this in Romans 13. But in personal conduct we are never to get our own back by injuring those who have injured us. - John R. W. Stott (1921-2011)
- It is good never to retaliate, because if we repay evil for evil, we double it, adding a second evil to the first, and so increasing the tally of evil in the world. It is even better to be positive, to bless, to do good, to seek peace, and to serve and convert our enemy, because if we thus repay good for evil, we reduce the tally of evil in the world, while at the same time increasing the tally of good. To repay evil for evil is to be overcome by it; to repay good for evil is to overcome evil with good. This is the way of the cross. - John R. W. Stott (1921-2011)
- It belongs to the church of God to receive blows rather than to inflict them. But she is an anvil that has worn out many hammers. - Theodore Beza (1519-1605)