

The Book of Romans

VI. Paul *Directs* the **Believers** concerning their **Spiritual Life** and **Service** before **God** and **One Another** (12:1-15:13)

A. He *Exhorts* them to *fully Commit* to **Serving God**, and **Living** according to **His will** (12:1-2)

B. He *Explains* to them regarding the **Exercise** of the **Gifts** of **Grace** that have been **given them** (12:3-8)

C. He *Expresses* what should **Characterize** their **Life** and **Service** as **Believers** (12:9-13:14)

1. *Describing* what should **Characterize** their **Ministry** as a **body of Believers** (12:9-13)

⁹ Let **love** be without *hypocrisy*.
Abhor what is **evil**; cling to what is **good**.

¹⁰ Be devoted to *one another* in **brotherly love**;
give preference to *one another* in **honor**;

¹¹ not lagging behind in diligence,
fervent in spirit, **serving** the Lord;

¹² *rejoicing* in **hope**, *persevering* in **tribulation**, devoted to **prayer**,

¹³ *contributing* to the **needs** of the **saints**, practicing **hospitality**.

2. *Declaring* what their **Response** should be to **Adversity** (12:14-21)

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

¹⁵ *Rejoice* with those who *rejoice*, and *weep* with those who **weep**.

¹⁶ Be of the **same mind** toward *one another*;
do **not** be *haughty* in mind,
but *associate* with the **lowly**.
Do **not** be *wise* in your *own* estimation.

¹⁷ *Never pay back* **evil** for **evil** to anyone.

Respect what is **right** in the sight of **all men**.

¹⁸ *If possible*, so far as it **depends** on you,
be at **peace** with all men.

¹⁹ **Never** take your **own revenge**, beloved,
but leave **room** for the **wrath of God**, for it is written,
“**VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY**,” says the Lord.

²⁰ “**BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM,
AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING
YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.**”

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

Message Summary The *Character* of God’s Servants

1. *Characterized* by **Love**

- a. a **sincere, unfeigned love** (12:9a)
- b. a **kindly, affectionate love**—as that of a **family** (12:10a)
- c. a **love** that **prefers** or **honors others** *before themselves* (12:10b)

2. *Characterized* by **Righteousness** and **Good Works**

- a. *hating* what is **evil** (12:9b)
clinging to what is **good** (12:9c)
- b. **not slothful**, but **diligent** (12:11a)
- c. *fervent* in **spirit** (12:11b)
- d. **serving** the Lord (12:11c)
- e. *rejoicing* in **hope** (12:12a)
- f. *persevering* in **times of trouble** (12:12b)
- g. *devoted* to **prayer** (12:12c)
- h. *benevolent* to those in **need** (12:13a)
- i. *practicing* **hospitality** (12:13b)
- j. *blessing*, **not cursing** those who **persecute** (12:14)

k. *empathetic* to **all** (both the **joyful** and **sorrowful**) (12:15)

l. *treating all* the **same**, without **personal favoritism** (12:16)

→ **rejecting arrogance** (12:16a)

→ **receiving the “lowly”** (12:16b)

→ **repudiating personal conceit** (12:16c)

3. *Characterized* by an **Attitude of Grace** and **Non-Retaliation**

a. *blessing, not cursing*, those who **persecute** (12:14)

b. *not returning evil for evil* (12:17a)

c. *purposing to do what is right before **all*** (12:17b)

d. *pursuing the path of peace with **all*** (12:18)

e. *forsaking personal revenge*, for “**vengeance**” will come from **God** (12:19)

f. *overcoming evil by doing that which is good* (12:20-21)

Personal Application **Recognizing our *Power* as Believers**

A. The *Power* of a **Loving** and **Godly Community**

→ *Characterized* by a **Genuine “Family” Love** (12:9-10)

→ *Characterized* by a *fervent spirit* of **Service** to **God** (12:11)

→ *Characterized* by a **Persevering Hope** (12:12:a-b)

→ *Characterized* by a **Devotion** to **Prayer** (12:12c)

→ *Characterized* by **Benevolence** and **Hospitality** (12:13)

B. The *Power* of true **Humility** (12:15-16)

Before **destruction** the heart of man is **haughty**,
But **humility** goes before **honor**. (Proverbs 18:12)

C. The *Power* of **doing** what is **Right** before **all** (12:17)

You shall **do** what is **right** and **good** in the **sight** of the **LORD**,
that it may be **well** with **you** and that **you** may **go in**
and **possess** the **good land** which the **LORD**
swore to **give your fathers**, (Deuteronomy 6:18)

D. The **Power** of prioritizing **Peace** (12:18)

“Blessed are the **peacemakers**,
for they shall be called **sons of God**.” (Matthew 5:9)

E. The **Power** of a **Non-Retaliatory spirit** (12:14, 17, 19)

Do **not** say, “I will **repay evil**”;
Wait for the **LORD**, and He will **save you**. (Proverbs 20:22)

He who is **slow to anger** is **better** than the **mighty**,
And he who **rules his spirit**, than he who **captures a city**. (Proverbs 16:32)

F. The **Power** of **Goodness** (12:20-21)

“Do **not be overcome** by **evil**, but **overcome evil** with **good**.” (12:21)

“The idea of **overcoming evil with good**
never occurred to men until the **gospel** was preached.
It **never** has been **acted on** except under the **influences** of the **gospel**.”

On this **principle** God shows **kindness**;
on this **principle** the **Saviour** came, and **bled**, and **died**;
and on this **principle** all (**believers**) should **act** in **treating** their **enemies**,
and in **bringing a world** to the **knowledge** of the **Lord Jesus**.

If (**believers**) will show **benevolence**, if they will **send forth**
proofs of love to the **ends** of the **earth**,
the **evils** of the **world** will be **overcome**.

Nor can the **nations** be **converted** until (**believers**) act on
the **great** and **most important principle** of their **religion**,
on the **largest scale** possible,
“TO **OVERCOME EVIL** WITH **GOOD**.”
(**Barnes Notes**, pg. 290)