

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Romans 12: Our Response

- It is radical and all-encompassing – presenting our entire selves (bodies) as a sacrifice
- It is lived out in the primarily context of the church – we are members of one body in Christ

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cleave 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.

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.

(Romans 12:9-21)

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Sincere Love

1. One Foundational Characteristic

- love for others is the foundational ethical norm of Christianity; grounded in the love of God in Christ (c.f. 1 John 4:8-9)
- warning against making our love a mere pretense or outward display

Sincere Love

2. Two Visceral Attitudes

- we are not simply to avoid evil and choose good but hate evil and embrace what is good
- genuine love of others includes a hatred of evil and an embrace of what is good

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3. Two Family Attributes

- our love for one another as fellow believers must be characterized by a real affection (1 Peter 1:22)
- we are to be those who prefer giving honor more than receiving honor (*"outdo one another in honor"*)

Sincere Love

➤ Cultivating these qualities:

1. Remember our undeserving position before God – His affection and honor are all of His mercy
2. Remind ourselves repeatedly that other believers are children of God, brothers and sisters in Christ