

## The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

## Practical Exhortations!

Romans 12:9-21

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

<sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

<sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> "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." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

(Romans 12:14-21)

## Fruits of Humility

### 1. An unnatural attitude toward enemies

- "bless" – to call on God to bestow favor upon them (not to bring disaster or ruin – "curse")
- we are to abhor what is evil, yet love our enemies and pray for them

<sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

(Matthew 5:44)

<sup>27</sup> "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

(Luke 6:27-28)

## Fruits of Humility

### 1. An unnatural attitude toward enemies

- "bless" – to call on God to bestow favor upon them (not to bring disaster or ruin – "curse")
- we are to abhor what is evil, yet love our enemies and pray for them
- this flows out of being shown mercy by God, though we were enemies of God (cf. Rom. 5:10)

## Fruits of Humility

### 2. A mutual sympathy toward believers

- as an expression of genuine love, we are to enter the joys and sorrows of others as our very own
- envy, jealousy, anger, self-preoccupation hinder these expressions of love

## Fruits of Humility

### 3. A unity with one another

- we are to have a common mind-set (perspective and purpose) that is in accordance with the gospel (c.f. Rom. 15:5)

<sup>2</sup> make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, being of the one mind.<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; <sup>4</sup> do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup> Have this mind in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

(Philippians 2:3-8)

## Fruits of Humility

### 3. A unity with one another

- thinking too highly of ourselves (pride) is one of the greatest hindrance to unity in the church
- one antidote to pride is to be carried away with lowly things and people