

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE
ROMANS

Lesson 16

The APPLICATION of the Righteousness of God:
The Righteousness of God Demonstrated in Christian Duties, Part 1
(Romans 12:1-21)

THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION	(1:1-17)
PART 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God	(1:18 to 8:39)
PART 2: The VINDICATION of the Righteousness of God	(9:1 to 11:36)

What have we have learned so far?

1. That whether he is Jew or Gentile, sinful man is rightfully condemned.
2. That righteousness comes by faith to the elect of God.
3. That God's plan of salvation is as righteous and blameless as God is.

THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION	(1:1-17)
PART 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God	(1:18 to 8:39)
PART 2: The VINDICATION of the Righteousness of God	(9:1 to 11:36)

Parts 1 and 2 showed us what God has done for us through Christ.

THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION	(1:1-17)
PART 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God	(1:18 to 8:39)
PART 2: The VINDICATION of the Righteousness of God	(9:1 to 11:36)
PART 3: The APPLICATION of the Righteousness of God	(12:1 to 15:13)

Part 3 teaches us what God expects from us in return.

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INTRODUCTION	(1:1-17)
PART 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God	(1:18 to 8:39)
PART 2: The VINDICATION of the Righteousness of God	(9:1 to 11:36)
PART 3: The APPLICATION of the Righteousness of God	(12:1 to 15:13)

This part has two subdivisions:

THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION

(1:1-17)

PART 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God (1:18 to 8:39)

PART 2: The VINDICATION of the Righteousness of God (9:1 to 11:36)

PART 3: The APPLICATION of the Righteousness of God (12:1 to 15:13)

(A) The Righteousness of God Demonstrated in Christian Duties (12:1 to 13:14)

(B) The Righteousness of God Demonstrated in Christian Liberties (14:1 to 15:13)

THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION

(1:1-17)

PART 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God

(1:18 to 8:39)

PART 2: The VINDICATION of the Righteousness of God

(9:1 to 11:36)

PART 3: The APPLICATION of the Righteousness of God

(12:1 to 15:13)

 (A) The Righteousness of God Demonstrated in Christian Duties (12:1 to 13:14)

Our Christian duties are presented in four parts:

THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION

(1:1-17)

PART 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God

(1:18 to 8:39)

PART 2: The VINDICATION of the Righteousness of God

(9:1 to 11:36)

PART 3: The APPLICATION of the Righteousness of God

(12:1 to 15:13)

 (A) The Righteousness of God Demonstrated in Christian Duties (12:1 to 13:14)

1) Responsibility Toward God

(12:1-2)

2) Responsibility Toward Society

(12:3-21)

3) Responsibility Toward Higher Powers

(13:1-7)

4) Responsibility Toward Neighbors

(13:8-14)

THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION

(1:1-17)

PART 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God (1:18 to 8:39)

PART 2: The VINDICATION of the Righteousness of God (9:1 to 11:36)

PART 3: The APPLICATION of the Righteousness of God (12:1 to 15:13)

(A) The Righteousness of God Demonstrated in Christian Duties (12:1 to 13:14)



1) Responsibility Toward God

(12:1-2)

We show our devotion to God by keeping the two great commandments:

Matthew 22:37-39

- ³⁷ ... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
- ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment.
- ³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.



We show our devotion to God by keeping the two great commandments:

Romans 12 gives us instruction on keeping these commandments in the Christian era.

Matthew 22:37-39

- ³⁷ ... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
- ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment.
- ³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.



Responsibility Toward God (12:1-2)

Romans 12:1

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,
holy,
acceptable unto God,
which is your reasonable service.

Paul now speaks to the entire church
of Christ, both Jews and Gentiles.



Responsibility Toward God (12:1-2)

Romans 12:1

- ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,
holy,
acceptable unto God,
which is your reasonable service.

Life itself is a testimony of God's mercies.

Lamentations 3:22-23

- ²² *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*
- ²³ *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*



Responsibility Toward God (12:1-2)

Romans 12:1

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,
holy,
acceptable unto God,
which is your reasonable service.

In times past, God accepted dead sacrifices. Now he wants your living service.

In times past, God's altar was in certain places. Now the altar is everywhere.



Responsibility Toward God (12:1-2)

Romans 12:1

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,
holy,
acceptable unto God,
which is your reasonable service.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

HOLY –
consecrated or set apart to a
sacred use, or to the service or
worship of God.



Responsibility Toward God (12:1-2)

Romans 12:1

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,
holy,
acceptable unto God,
which is your reasonable service.

Our *sacrifice* is holy and acceptable because
Christ has made *us* holy and acceptable.

Ephesians 1:3-6

- ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ,
who hath blessed us with all
spiritual blessings in heavenly
places in Christ:
- ⁴ According as he hath chosen us in
him before the foundation of the
world, that we should be holy and
without blame before him in love:
- ⁵ Having predestinated us unto the
adoption of children by Jesus
Christ to himself, according to the
good pleasure of his will,
- ⁶ To the praise of the glory of his
grace, wherein he hath made us
accepted in the beloved.



Responsibility Toward God (12:1-2)

Romans 12:1

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,
holy,
acceptable unto God,
which is your reasonable service.

1 Peter 2:5

Ye also, as lively stones,
are built up a spiritual house,
an holy priesthood,
to offer up spiritual sacrifices,
acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.



Responsibility Toward God (12:1-2)

Romans 12:1

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,
holy,
acceptable unto God,
which is your reasonable service.

Jesus died for us.

Now he expects us to live for him.

1 John 3:16

¹⁶ Hereby perceive we the love of
God, because he laid down his life
for us: and we ought to lay down
our lives for the brethren.



Responsibility Toward God (12:1-2)

Romans 12:2

² And be not conformed to this world:
but be ye transformed by the renewing of
your mind,
that ye may prove what is that good, and
acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

But in order to serve God, we must
first submit ourselves to his Spirit so
he can change us into something
useful.



Responsibility Toward God (12:1-2)

Romans 12:2

² **And be not conformed to this world:**
but be ye transformed by the renewing of
your mind,
that ye may prove what is that good, and
acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1 Peter 1:14

As obedient children,
not fashioning yourselves according
to the former lusts in your ignorance:

Sinful society wants to conform you to its image.



Responsibility Toward God (12:1-2)

Romans 12:2

² And be not conformed to this world:
**but be ye transformed by the renewing of
your mind,**
that ye may prove what is that good, and
acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Psalms 51:10

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart,
O God; and renew a right spirit
within me.

The Holy Spirit transforms us by renewing our minds.
This is God's answer to David's prayer.



Responsibility Toward God (12:1-2)

Romans 12:2

² And be not conformed to this world:
**but be ye transformed by the renewing of
your mind,**
that ye may prove what is that good, and
acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

We are changed BY his image INTO his image.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with open face beholding
as in a glass the glory of the Lord,
are changed into the same image
from glory to glory, *even as by the
Spirit of the Lord.*



Responsibility Toward God (12:1-2)

Romans 12:2

² And be not conformed to this world:
but be ye transformed by the renewing of
your mind,
that ye may prove what is that good, and
acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

We prove God by our obedience.

Malachi 3:10


¹⁰ Bring ye all the tithes into the
storehouse, that there may be
meat in mine house,
and prove me now herewith,
saith the LORD of hosts,
if I will not open you the windows
of heaven, and pour you out a
blessing, that *there shall not be
room enough to receive it.*



So, what is our Christian duty to God? How do we keep the first commandment today?

We must present ourselves before his altar as living sacrifices so that we can be transformed by him and prove his perfect will in our lives.

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 2) Responsibility Toward Society	(12:3-21)

Now, what about the *second* great commandment?

Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:3

³ For I say, **through the grace given unto me,** to every man that is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Paul reasserts his authority to speak on such matters.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:3

³ For I say, through the grace given unto me,
to every man that is among you,
**not to think of himself more highly than he
ought to think;**
but to think soberly,
according as God hath dealt to every man
the measure of faith.

“Humility is not thinking less of
yourself. It is thinking of yourself
less.”

C. S. Lewis



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:3

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; **but to think soberly,** according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

SOBERLY

With a temperate passion;
coolly; calmly; moderately.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:3

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me,
to every man that is among you,
not to think of *himself* more highly than he
ought to think;
but to think soberly,
according as God hath dealt to every man
the measure of faith.

Every Christian has been given all
the faith he will ever need. Now it is
his duty to use it.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:4-5

- ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:
- ⁵ So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

The universal Body of Christ is the most diverse and welcoming organization on earth, bringing men, women, and children out of every possible way of life into one assembly.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:4-5

- 4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:
- 5 So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

The church celebrates individuality *and* conformity.

As each Christian conforms to Christ, he discovers his individual part in the church.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:4-5

- 4 For as we have many members in one body,
and all members have not the same office:
5 So we, *being many*, are one body in Christ,
and every one members one of another.



Then, like the spokes on a wheel,
everyone works together, each one
making his own unique contribution.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:6

- ⁶ Having then gifts differing
according to the grace that is given to us,
whether prophecy, *let us prophesy*
according to the proportion of faith;

The Spirit anoints each one with different gifts. The gifts we receive are according to the grace that is given to us, and our faith.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:6

- ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;*

You cannot be an active participant in the church without exercising the faith you have been given.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:6

- ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;

Verses 6 to 8 highlight some of the gifts on display in a vibrant church.



Romans 12:6

- ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;*

One of the spiritual gifts is the gift of prophecy. A Christian with the gift of prophecy is a mouthpiece for the Holy Spirit, bringing messages from heaven to earth.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:7-8

- ⁷ Or ministry, *let us wait* on our ministering:
or he that teacheth, on teaching;
- ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation:
he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity;
he that ruleth, with diligence;
he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Here are more six ways of demonstrating our love for our neighbor.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:7-8

- 7 **Or ministry, *let us wait on our ministering:***
or he that teacheth, on teaching;
- 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation:
he that giveth, *let him do it with simplicity;*
he that ruleth, with diligence;
he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

To minister is to serve. There are as many *opportunities* to serve as there are *people* to serve.

Matthew 20:28

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:7-8

- ⁷ Or ministry, *let us wait on our ministering:*
or he that teacheth, on teaching;
- ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation:
he that giveth, *let him do it with simplicity;*
he that ruleth, with diligence;
he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Public speaking is a skill you can learn. But the ability to clearly and accurately explain the Scriptures is a gift from God.

Nehemiah 8:8

So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:7-8

- ⁷ Or ministry, *let us wait on our ministering:*
or he that teacheth, on teaching;
- ⁸ **Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation:**
he that giveth, *let him do it with simplicity;*
he that ruleth, with diligence;
he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Some Christians have a gift of lifting people to a higher and better way of life.

1 Thessalonians 4:1

Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:7-8

- ⁷ Or ministry, *let us wait on our ministering:*
or he that teacheth, on teaching;
- ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation:
he that giveth, *let him do it with simplicity;*
he that ruleth, with diligence;
he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

One of God's gifts is the grace of giving.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:7-8

- ⁷ Or ministry, *let us wait on our ministering:*
or he that teacheth, on teaching;
- ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation:
he that giveth, *let him do it with simplicity;*
he that ruleth, with diligence;
he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Strong's Concordance

Simplicity

ἀπλότης (haplotes)

Openness of heart that
manifests itself by generosity.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:7-8

- ⁷ Or ministry, *let us wait on our ministering:*
or he that teacheth, on teaching;
- ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation:
he that giveth, *let him do it with simplicity;*
he that ruleth, with diligence;
he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Some Christians have been given the grace to rule over others.

2 Samuel 23:3

- ³ The God of Israel said,
the Rock of Israel spake to me,
He that ruleth over men *must be*
just, ruling in the fear of God.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:7-8

- ⁷ Or ministry, *let us wait on our ministering:*
or he that teacheth, on teaching;
- ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation:
he that giveth, *let him do it with simplicity;*
he that ruleth, with diligence;
he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Others are graced with mercy and cheerfulness.

Proverbs 17:22

²² A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.



These are some of the gifts of **faith** in the church body.
The rest of this chapter shares principles of **Christian love**.

Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:9

⁹ *Let love be without dissimulation.
Abhor that which is evil;
cleave to that which is good.*

Jesus said, “All men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35).

This is what that love looks like:



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:9

9 *Let love be without dissimulation.*

Abhor that which is evil;
cleave to that which is good.



Webster's 1828 Dictionary

DISSIMULATION

Hiding under a false appearance;
false pretension; hypocrisy.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:9

9 *Let love be without dissimulation.*

Abhor that which is evil;
cleave to that which is good.

Christian love is not a tool for getting what you want from people.

1 Thessalonians 2:5

5 For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:9

- ⁹ *Let love be without dissimulation.*
**Abhor that which is evil;
cleave to that which is good.**

As a Christian, you must choose your side. You cannot serve two masters.

1 John 2:15

- ¹⁵ Love not the world,
neither the things *that are* in the
world.
If any man love the world,
the love of the Father is not in
him.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:9

⁹ *Let love be without dissimulation.*

*Abhor that which is evil;
cleave to that which is good.*

You cannot truly LOVE good without
HATING evil.

Psalm 97:10a

Ye that love the LORD, hate evil:



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:10

¹⁰ *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*

Verse 10 describes two kinds of family love:



Romans 12:10

¹⁰ **Be kindly affectioned** one to another
with brotherly love;
in honour preferring one another;

Strong's Concordance

[Be] Kindly Affectioned
φιλόστοργος (philostorgos)

1. loving affection,
the tenderness that is
shown between parents
and their children.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:10

¹⁰ **Be kindly affectioned** one to another
with brotherly love;
in honour preferring one another;

Paul demonstrated the love of a
parent for his child in

1 Thessalonians 2:7 and 11:

- ⁷ But we were gentle among you,
even as a nurse [a nursing
mother] cherisheth her children:
- ¹¹ As ye know how we exhorted
and comforted and charged
every one of you, as a father
doth his children,



Romans 12:10

¹⁰ *Be kindly affectioned one to another with **brotherly love**; in honour preferring one another;*

Strong's Concordance

[With] Brotherly Love

φιλαδελφία philadelphia

1. love of brothers or sisters, brotherly love
2. the love which Christians cherish for each other as brethren.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:10

¹⁰ Be kindly affectioned one to another
with brotherly love;
in honour preferring one another;

1 John 2:9-11

- ⁹ He that saith he is in the light,
and hateth his brother,
is in darkness even until now.
- ¹⁰ He that loveth his brother
abideth in the light, and there is
none occasion of stumbling in him.
- ¹¹ But he that hateth his brother
is in darkness,
and walketh in darkness,
and knoweth not whither he goeth,
because that darkness hath blinded
his eyes.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:10

¹⁰ *Be kindly affectioned one to another
with brotherly love;
in honour preferring one another;*

God first, others second, yourself
last.

Philippians 2:3

*Let nothing be done through strife
or vainglory;
but in lowliness of mind
let each esteem other
better than themselves.*



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:11

¹¹ Not slothful in business;
fervent in spirit;
serving the Lord;

Verse 11 teaches us to be diligent in our service to God and mankind.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:11

¹¹ **Not slothful** in business;
fervent in spirit;
serving the Lord;

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

SLOTHFULNESS

The habit of idleness; laziness.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:11

¹¹ **Not slothful in business;**
fervent in spirit;
serving the Lord;

Lazy people only work hard to
invent excuses!

Proverbs 26:13

¹³ The slothful *man* saith,
There is a lion in the way;
a lion is in the streets.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:11

¹¹ **Not slothful in business;**
fervent in spirit;
serving the Lord;

Proverbs 22:29

²⁹ Seest thou a man
diligent in his business?
he shall stand before kings;
he shall not stand before
mean *men* [men of low rank].



Romans 12:11

¹¹ Not slothful in business;
fervent in spirit;
serving the Lord;

Strong's Concordance

Fervent

ζέω (zeo)

1. used of boiling anger, love, zeal, for what is good or bad
2. fervent in spirit, zeal for what is good



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:11

¹¹ Not slothful in business;
fervent in spirit;
serving the Lord;

We must be *passionate* in our prayers and our Christian love.

James 5:16b

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

1 Peter 4:8

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:12

¹² Rejoicing in hope;
patient in tribulation;
continuing instant in prayer;

Verse 12 gives us three keys to
guarding our heart in this present,
evil world:

Hope,
Patience, and
Prayer.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:13

¹³ Distributing to the necessity of saints;
given to hospitality.

Verse 13 teaches us that **GIVING** is
the evidence of love.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:13

¹³ Distributing to the necessity of saints;
given to hospitality.

We should never allow our hearts to grow cold toward the needs of other Christians.

1 John 3:17

... whoso hath this world's good,
and seeth his brother have need,
and shutteth up his bowels of
compassion from him,
how dwelleth the love of God in him?



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:14

¹⁴ Bless them which persecute you:
bless, and curse not.

Verse 14 teaches us to be kind even to those who are not kind to us.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:14

¹⁴ Bless them which persecute you:
bless, and curse not.

Remember our Lord's words from
Matthew 5:

- ⁴³ Ye have heard that it hath been
said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour,
and hate thine enemy.
- ⁴⁴ But I say unto you,
Love your enemies,
bless them that curse you,
do good to them that hate you, and
pray for them which despitefully
use you, and persecute you;
- ⁴⁵ That ye may be the children of your
Father which is in heaven:
for he maketh his sun to rise on the
evil and on the good, and sendeth
rain on the just and on the unjust.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:15

¹⁵ Rejoice with them that do rejoice,
and weep with them that weep.

Verse 15 teaches us to feel
connected to those around us.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:15

¹⁵ Rejoice with them that do rejoice,
and weep with them that weep.

Verse 15 teaches us to feel
connected to those around us.

1 Corinthians 12:26

And whether one member suffer,
all the members suffer with it;
or one member be honoured,
all the members rejoice with it.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:16

¹⁶ *Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.*

Verse 16 warns us against holding on to prejudices.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:16

¹⁶ *Be of the same mind one toward another.*

Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate.

Be not wise in your own conceits.

We will all be of the same mind when we all put on the mind of Christ.



Romans 12:16

¹⁶ *Be of the same mind one toward another.*

Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate.

Be not wise in your own conceits.

Wesley's Notes on the Bible

“Desire not riches, honour, or the company of the great.”



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:16

¹⁶ *Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate.*

Be not wise in your own conceits.

Geneva Bible Notes

“Do not be puffed up with an opinion of your own wisdom.”



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:17-18

- ¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil.
Provide things honest in the sight of all men.
- ¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you,
live peaceably with all men.

Verses 17 and 18 teach us how to conduct ourselves righteously in an unrighteous world.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:17-18

- ¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil.
Provide things honest in the sight of all men.
- ¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you,
live peaceably with all men.

Even when we are cheated by others,
we must maintain our honesty.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:17-18

- ¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil.
Provide things honest in the sight of all men.
- ¹⁸ **If it be possible, as much as lieth in you,
live peaceably with all men.**

The world is full of trouble-makers.
We can peace-makers.

Matthew 5:9

Blessed *are* the peacemakers:
for they shall be called the children
of God.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:19

¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves,
but *rather* give place unto wrath:

for it is written,

Vengeance *is* mine;

I will repay, saith the Lord.

We must leave our desire for justice
in God's hands.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:19

¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves,
but rather give place unto wrath:

for it is written,
Vengeance *is* mine;
I will repay, saith the Lord.

Leviticus 19:18

Thou shalt not avenge,
nor bear any grudge against the
children of thy people,
but thou shalt love thy neighbour
as thyself:

I am the LORD.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:19

¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves,
but *rather* give place unto wrath:

for it is written,
Vengeance is mine;
I will repay, saith the Lord.

This is in Deuteronomy 32:35:
To me *belongeth* vengeance, and
recompence ...



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:20

²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger,
feed him;
if he thirst,
give him drink:
for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire
on his head.

Doing things the Lord's way
gives room for God to do his work
in people.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:20

²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger,
feed him;
if he thirst,
give him drink:
for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire
on his head.

This is from Proverbs 25:21-22

²¹ If thine enemy be hungry,
give him bread to eat;
and if he be thirsty,
give him water to drink:
²² For thou shalt heap coals of fire
upon his head, and the LORD
shall reward thee.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:20

²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger,
feed him;
if he thirst,
give him drink:

for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire
on his head.

The meaning of this verse is made
clear by the verse that follows it.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:21

²¹ Be not overcome of evil,
but overcome evil with good.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:21

²¹ Be not overcome of evil,
but overcome evil with good.

Evil has the power to overpower you.
It can provoke you to strike back in
anger, and add sin to sin.
But good has the power to conquer
evil.



Responsibility Toward Society (12:3-21)

Romans 12:21

²¹ Be not overcome of evil,
but overcome evil with good.

Evil has the power to overpower you.
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But good has the power to conquer
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End of Chapter 12



THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION	(1:1-17)
PART 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God	(1:18 to 8:39)
PART 2: The VINDICATION of the Righteousness of God	(9:1 to 11:36)
PART 3: The APPLICATION of the Righteousness of God	(12:1 to 15:13)
(A) The Righteousness of God Demonstrated in Christian Duties	(12:1 to 13:14)
1) Responsibility Toward God	(12:1-2)
2) Responsibility Toward Society	(12:3-21)
3) Responsibility Toward Higher Powers	(13:1-7)



UP NEXT

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. In Romans chapter 12, is Paul writing to Jews, Gentiles, or all Christians?
2. Romans 12:1 says our sacrifice is holy and acceptable to God. According to Ephesians 1:6, why are we accepted?
3. Romans 12:6 tells us that our gifts are "according to" two things. What are they?
4. What are the six ways given in Romans 12:7-8 for a Christian to demonstrate his love for his neighbor?
5. According to Psalm 97, you cannot love God without hating _____.
6. What are the two kinds of love in Romans 12:10?
7. According to Romans 12:12, what are the three ways to guard our heart in this present, evil world?
8. What verse from Deuteronomy does Paul use in Romans 12:19?
9. What verses from Proverbs does Paul use in Romans 12:20?
10. According to Romans 12:21, how do we overcome evil?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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