

Christian Living – Part 1

Romans 12

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 11 illustrates how Jews & Gentiles fit into the Church
- Ch. 12 & 13 outline Christian living in 5 points
- Ch. 1-8: comments concerning salvation
- Ch. 9-11: deal with the “Jewish” problem
- Ch. 12-16: practical application of all P said
- R. C. Bell: early chapters the ‘root’ and latter chapters are the ‘fruit.’
- J.D. Thomas: “You will not find a better summary of the Christian life anywhere in the Bible!” [said in a Bible class, 1955]

1. Attitude Toward God – Romans 12:1-2

- If we do v. 1-2, we will have little difficulty doing 12:3-16:27
- 1: begins with an urge [call to one’s side]
- Living sacrifice – more meaningful to 1stC Chr.
- Present: to place beside
- Your bodies: not an animal sacrifice
- Living: OT sacrifices were dead
- Holy: set apart
- Sacrifice: OT rendered obsolete by Christ’s sc.
- Acceptable to God: well pleasing, approved
- Reasonable: for all God has done for us
- 2: world: age
- Negative: don’t be like this world
- Positive: renewing your mind; metamorphosis

2. Attitude Toward Brethren – Romans 12:3-13

- 3-8 Need for Humility; 9-13 ... Brotherly Love

- 3: grace given – apostleship; play on words: form of ‘think’ 4x here; given us a standard
- 4,5: familiar illustration of a body
- 6-8: some extraordinary, some ordinary
- Prophesying: prophet [spokesman for another]
- Gift of serving: ministry
- ... Teaching: to give instruction
- ... Exhorting: calling another
- ... Giving: to share, liberally with simplicity
- ... Leading: to stand before
- ... Showing Mercy: to feel sympathy with
- 9: love: agape: seeking the best; hate: Amos 5:15; cling: to glue, cement
- 10: philia: warm affection; storge: family
- 11: NCV: do not be lazy but work hard
- 12: 3 qualities of agape love for sunshine/shadow:
 - 1] Rejoicing [8:18] always a reason to hope
 - 2] Persevering – tribulation is pressure in GK
 - 3] Devoted – to persist, hold fast
- 13: 2 ways brotherly love can be expressed – needs and hospitality, whether we’ve met them or not!

3. Attitude Towards Enemies – Romans 12:14-21

- More on enemies, a little on fellow Chr. 15-16
- 14: bless: good word; sympathetic; not impossible – Jesus did this on the cross
- 15: showcases closeness of the Lord’s church; Christian is sympathetic
- 16: equal kindness; high things: congregation mostly poor people, no reason for looking down on some; must be humble
- 17: non-retaliation is the most distinctive mark of a Christian [Moo]. No exceptions; respect: do what is ethically good.
- 18: comprehensive: all men. Key: ‘if possible’
- 19: 1st time since 1:17 ‘beloved;’ 2 contrasts: 1] never pay back evil [7] – God’s job; 2] never pay back vengeance – God’s job

- 19: how? 1] Natural consequences [7]; meted out in human conflicts [18]; on the day of wrath [2:5-6]
- 20: what can we do? Hurt him more; treat same way; ignore & have nothing to do with him; love and serve him. Coals: a way to restart their fire or by dropping on the enemy's head over the wall
- 21: overcome: GK: victory
- Ask God to bless our enemies and try to live at peace with them.

Lessons:

1. We as Christians should not look like, act like, think like, or behave like the world. We should, instead, be like Christ.
2. The Christian's life of service is full of emotions – good and bad. We should live this chapter to know how to appropriately respond to every situation.
3. There will be some people where it seems almost impossible to get along with. We must make it our goal, to the best of our ability, to live peaceably striving for that “peace that passes all understanding.” Phil. 4:4

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