

Romans 12:14-21

XLVII. The Supernatural Life - Pt 2

A. The Duty of Each Believer to All People - vs 14:16

1. Bless those who persecute you - vs 14a

a. obedience demands not hating and retaliating against those who harm, but go further by blessing them

b. a paraphrase of Christ's words in Mt 5:44 Lk 6:27-28,

i. refers to the same *agape* of vs 9

ii. Being a blessing - Lk 6:29-30

iii. To be a blessing, you must treat one as a friend - Lk 6:32-33

c. examples of and encouragement to

i. Jesus - Lk 23:34

ii. Stephen - Ac 7:60

iii. Peter - 1 Pe 2:21-23

2. bless and do not curse. - vs 14b

a. most temptations to curse someone are mere inconveniences or embarrassments

b. some studies show that high blood pressure and anxiety related diseases can be caused by persistent attitudes of resentment and hostility

3. Rejoice with those who rejoice - vs 15a

a. when someone is blessed or rewarded for accomplishments, it may seem we have missed out or makes another's seem empty

b. rejoicing at another's calamity is displeasing to God - Pro 17:5

c. Paul followed his own counsel - 1 Co 12:26

4. weep with those who weep. - vs 15b

a. the duty of sympathy and empathy is to enter into another's suffering

i. Compassion has the idea of suffering with someone - *splagchnizomai* - to have the bowels yearn, feel sympathy, to pity:--have (be moved with) compassion.

ii. called to show the character of God - Compassionate - De 4:31; Ne 9:17; Lam 3:22; Jo 2:13; Jon 4:2; Jas 5:11

b. in addition to weeping with those who weep, grief over the sins of others, who should weep, but don't - Lk 19:41-44

5. Do not be partial - vs 16a?

a. Partiality - God is not Partial - Ro 2:11; Ac 10:34; 1 Pe 1:17

i. *prosklisis* - a leaning towards, proclivity (favoritism):--partiality.

ii. *diakrino* - to separate thoroughly, to withdraw from, or oppose; to discriminate, or hesitate:--contend, make (to) differ(-ence), discern, doubt, judge, be partial, stagger, waver. - Jas 2:1-4,9

b. the tendency is to be wise in one's own eyes - Pr 3:7; 26:12; Isa 5:21;

b. Be of the same mind toward one another - Ro 15:5; 1Co 1:10; Php 2:2; 3:16; 1Pe 3:8

6. Avoid Haughtiness, Associate with the Humble

a. Do not set your mind on high things

i. Lit. minding high things

ii. Not high in the spiritual sense, but in the self-seeking pride sense

- iii. Partiality, closely related to be reluctant to show respect for the humble
- b. but associate (condescend - KJV) with the humble.
 - i. **sunapago** - to take off together, transport with (seduce, yield):--carry (lead) away with, condescend.
 - ii. **tapeinos** - depressed, humiliated (in circumstances or disposition):--base, cast down, humble, of low degree (estate), lowly.
 - iii. No spiritual aristocracy in the Church - Lk 14:12-14

7. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

- a. a conceited, self-promoting Christian is a serious contradiction
 - i. humble submission to the will of God found in the Word of God
 - ii. Having no confidence in himself or his own wisdom and talent
- b. any trust in self only results in self deception and a fall - 1Co 10:12; Ga 6:3

B. The Duty of Each Believer Toward Enemies - vs 17-21

1. Repay no one evil for evil

- a. the second aspect of principle taught in vs 14; 1st - don't curse; 2nd - no revenge
- b. OT principle - eye for an eye - Ex 21:24; Le 24:20; De 19:21
 - i. pertained to civil justice, not personal revenge
 - ii. Meant to control the severity of the punishment, not to exceed the offense
- c. Paul and Peter want Believers to go a step further - 1 Th 5:15; 1Pe 3:9

2. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men

- a. **pronoeeo** - consider in advance, look out for beforehand (actively), provide (for).
 - i. to have a built in protection against angrily repaying evil for evil
 - ii. and being predisposed to doing what is right
- b. **kalos** - that which is intrinsically good, proper and honest - visible - in sight

3. live peaceably with all men

- a. This characteristic is conditional
 - i. If it is possible,
 - ii. as much as depends on you
- b. peace - to be in a right relationship with another
 - i. always between two
 - ii. Our responsibility - do all that we can - to go to great lengths - Mk 9:50; Ro 14:19; Heb 12:14

4. do not avenge yourselves

- a. but rather give place to wrath - God's wrath
- b. for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. - De 32:35; 2 Sam 22:48; Nah 1:2; Heb 10:30
 - i. only God knows all that is necessary to deal appropriately with the situation
 - ii. In God's time, divine judgment will come

5. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good

- a. to not take vengeance is to do nothing
- b. once again God calls us to return good for evil
- c. Paul quotes from Pro 25:21-22 - "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." - an Egyptian method of showing public contrition
- d. An OT principle repeated by Jesus - Ex 23:4-5; Pr 25:21-22; Mt 5:44