

“How to Live a Gospel-Centered Life:  
We Live to Teach, Train, and Obey with Joy” (Part 3)  
Romans 12:1-2 & 14-21

- *“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good....Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good....So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets....Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation (their salvation).”* (Romans 12:21; Romans 12:9; Matthew 7:12; 1 Peter 2:12; cf. Matthew 5:16)
- If we genuinely desire that people will be saved, it drastically affects the way that we live. *“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all those who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* (1 Timothy 2:1-4; cf. 1 Peter 2:12-13)
- *“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse”*: Our transformation of mind is predominantly seen in what we do in difficulty (Romans 12:2). Anyone can “act” Christian when things are going well. What happens when life is turned upside down?
  - *To bless* is to desire, in words and actions, that someone flourishes spiritually. To bless is to show someone the power of God to remain obedient to God’s Word, that is, to remain steadfast and sound-minded, in difficult situations. To bless someone is to show and teach them what it is to be “a living sacrifice.”
  - *To curse* someone is to desire that someone would be miserable, uncomfortable, struck with sickness, to have a calamity in their life, to suffer greatly, to die, or even at it’s ugliest, desire that someone would go to Hell because of what they did to you or someone you love or care about.
- *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep”*: When someone receives grace and mercy from God, I don’t covet, I rejoice praying that it will lead to their salvation (James 4:1-4). When someone is suffering, I have compassion on them, praying that their suffering will lead to salvation (Hebrews 4:15-16).
- *“Live in harmony, do not be haughty, associate with the lowly”*: The Christian should want all to come to salvation. The Christian should have no partiality in their desire for people to be saved. We should strive for a consistent love, a consistent response, a consistent respect, and a consistent attitude as we do life with people for the sake of the gospel. We should not act in self-interest (Philippians 2:3-4; James 2:1-9).
- *“Do what is honorable and live peaceably with all”*: Do what is biblical around everyone. At home, at work, at church, on vacation....live biblically. Whether it is easy or difficult, do what is biblical (1 Peter 2:21-23 & 4:12-19). To be at peace, both parties must have this desire. To live at peace, is to desire spiritual peace, reconciliation, with everyone. To forgive and to admit sin, to assume the best of others, and to never hold grudges (Ephesians 4:29-32). I never compromise the truth for the sake of peace, this isn’t peace, this is unloving comfortability (1 Corinthians 13:6).
- *“Beloved never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God.”*: “All things will be made right; all will be held accountable to God; no injustice will remain when God is finished. (John Piper)
  - *God’s wrath* is always righteous, just, and controlled (Romans 2:5).
  - *God’s wrath* is to be feared (Romans 3:23; Hebrews 10:31) because it is perfectly just/deserved and it is eternal (Matthew 25:41 & 46).

(continued →)

**Worship:** This is Amazing Grace (Phil Wickham)  
Jesus I My Cross Have Taken (Indelible Grace Music)

His Mercy is More (Matt Boswell)

**Closing Song:** Nothing But the Blood (Various Artists)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- *God's wrath* is consistent in the Old and New Testament (Jeremiah 30:23; Nahum 1:2; Romans 1:18; Colossians 3:6; John 3:36; Revelation 19:15).
- *God's wrath* is His love in action against sin. He perfectly loves what is good so therefore He perfectly abhors/hates what is evil.
- *God's wrath* is satisfied in the work of Christ, received by faith (Romans 3:24-26; Romans 5:9-11; 1 John 2:1-6).
- Final thoughts:
  - God's radical grace and mercy given to us is meant to be shown towards those most difficult for us (Luke 6:35-36).
  - Our own evil is the biggest threat to us. People's evil towards us is only damaging towards us when we react with evil (1 Peter 2:19-25).
  - Since men became enemies with God they naturally have had a desire to be enemies of one another. The resolution for this problem is to be at peace with God so that we would be able to be at peace with one another (Romans 5:10-11).
  - We are free to love God and love people regardless of our circumstances. We have been given the power to be Christ-like.

*"The Christian should be the happiest of all people. The Christian should be the strongest of all people. The Christian should be the most forgiving and patient of all people. The Christian should be the most lovingly honest of all people. The Christian should be the most loyal and committed of all people. We are free (Galatians 5:13-15)."*

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#### **Announcements:**

\***Volunteers:** We have a need of volunteers for our CHILDREN'S MINISTRY **and** we are looking for volunteers to help with running sound. If you are a church member and are interested in serving in the CHILDREN'S MINISTRY or have any questions about serving in that ministry, please talk to Kalen and Courtney! If you are interested in volunteering to help with running sound, please see Pastor Jeremey.

\***Fellowship Dinner:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner TONIGHT immediately following the worship service. We invite EVERYONE to stay and enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!

\***New Members Meeting:** We will be having a New Members Meeting **NEXT** Sunday, September 19th, immediately following the worship service. If you are interested in being a member, please plan on attending that meeting. If you have any questions concerning church membership, please see Elder Zach.

\***Baptism:** Our next Baptism Service will be in 2 weeks on Sunday, September 26th. If you are interested in being baptized or have any questions about being baptized, please see Pastor Jeremey or Pastor Joel.