

**Series "How Great A Salvation"**  
**"Love In The World"**  
**Romans 12:14-21**  
**Study-36**

**Romans 12:1-21 Christian Life As A Sacrifice To God:**

**Romans 12:9-13 How To Love Those In The Church: Romans 12:9**  
**Romans 12:14-21 How To Love Those In The World:**

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "God's Renewing Of The Mind Means We Can Love The Very People Who Persecute And Are Against Us"

**8 Ways For A Believer To Love In The World:**

- 1. Verse – 14 Love Is - Good Will: Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.**

**Bless those who persecute you; The Context** - Paul has been speaking about the believer dedicating their entire lives to God.

**Romans 12:1 your spiritual service of worship.** *Rational ("logical") intelligent form of worship!*

**Romans 12:2 but be transformed** - Word "*metamorphosis*" – "*to change your outward appearance so as to agree with your inner self*"

**Romans 12:9-13**

**Paul now speaks about God's transforming "Love In The World"**  
**There are unloving and hateful attacks by those of the world.**

**Love Calls Down Blessings Not Curses: Bless those who persecute you;**

**Bless** – "*to prosper, to speak well of, to praise, to eulogize*"

**persecute you;** "*to pursue and to follow, to chase after, to flee*"

Jesus spoke about the believer's response and reward to persecution -  
**Matthew 5:10-12**

**bless and do not curse.** "*Not in the habit of calling down divine curses on those that are persecuting you.*" The idea is that we are praying for them.

Note that **4 times** in our passage, God instructs believers not to return evil for evil, **Verses – 14 do not curse, 17 Never pay back evil for evil, 19 Never take your own revenge, 21 Do not be overcome by evil**

**Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:28**

Martyr Stephen Practiced this - **Acts 7:58-60**  
The Example of Jesus On the Cross - **Luke 23:33-34**

- 2. Verse – 15 Love Is - Sympathetic: Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.** We are to identify with the world in the ups and downs of life.

**Sympathetic In Highs Of Others: Rejoice with those who rejoice,**  
*"Rejoicing with rejoicing people"* (Joyful with the happy)

**Sympathetic In The Lows Of Others: and weep with those who weep.** *"Weeping with weeping people"* (Sorrowful with the mourners)

- 3. Verse – 16 Love Is - Harmony: Be of the same mind toward one another;** speaks of harmony in the world. *"Thinking the same thing with respect to one another."* (Team Player, Same Page)

- 4. Verse – 16 Love Is - Humility: do not be haughty in mind, "avoid haughtiness"** (Note follows **Be of the same mind toward one another;**)

**but associate with the lowly.**

There is 2 ways of looking at this command:

**(1) lowly** – Means, *"tasks, humble means"* **Philippians 4:12-13; 1 Timothy 6:8-9**

**(2) lowly** – Persons, *"a real interest in ordinary people"* We are not to look at ourselves above anyone else. **Philippians 2:3-4**

**Do not be wise in your own estimation.** This is being conceited. That our greatness is only in our own mind. **Proverbs 3:7**

- 5. Verse – 17 Love - When Wronged: Romans 12:17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Matthew 5:38-42; 1 Thessalonians 5:15**

**Respect what is right in the sight of all men.** *"respect the thought"*

**6. Verse – 18 Love – Be At Peace: Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.**

Notice **If possible**, Because sometimes it is not!

**so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.** We need to sacrifice and do what we can do, within reason of following Jesus Christ.

**Forgiveness** (not holding the sin against the person, but not reconciliation) Person's won't stop their sinful actions, you can be free from bitterness of un-forgiveness, but the relationship is superficial not reconciled.

**7. Verse – 19 Love – Don't Retaliate: Romans 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved,** the Greek tense implies *they were doing it and they needed to stop!* notice who Paul is saying this to! **beloved**, It is to Christians.

God is the judge, we are in no position to judge, since we are guilty ourselves, we ourselves need to be judged.

**Believers Are To Trust God: but leave room for the wrath of God,** "anger"

**"The Wrath Of God" is spoken about in 3 different ways in Scripture.**

- 1. Ultimate Wrath (Lake Of Fire) – Revelation 20; Romans 2:5**
- 2. Great Tribulation – Revelation 6-19; Revelation 7:16**
- 3. Abandoned By God (Given To Desires) – Romans 1:18-32**

God uses the authorities: police, courts - **Romans 13:4**

**Judgment Is For God: for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.** This should be the rule of God's people. **Deuteronomy 32:35**

**God will then do 1 of 2 things:**

- 1. God Will Punish:** by bringing punishment to the offenders. Which as some take it makes them all the more bitter.

During the great tribulation God pours out His judgment with this response - **Revelation 16:11**

**2. God Will Humble:** to the point that they will repent of their sins.

**Isaiah 19:22**

**8. Verses – 20-21 Love Is - Overcoming Through Kindness:**

**Romans 12:20** - Quote from **Proverbs 25:21**

**The Way To Change An Enemy Is Through Kindness: "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM,** This demonstrates the love of God.

**AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK;** Giving a cup of water in His name will not be forgotten.

**FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD."**

In ancient times they did not have matches or lighters. So persons would go to neighbors and ask for coals. They would place the coals in an earthenware pot that they would carry on their head with a padded jar. A good neighbor would give a generous amount of coals. (Metaphor for responding generously, shaming them for a bad attitude towards them)

**Romans 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

**To Stoop To Vengeance Is To Be Overcome By Evil: Do not be overcome by evil,**

**1 Peter 2:21-23**

**Application:**

1. The Believer Loves When Wronged. Love Prays And Calls Down Blessings Not Curses Upon Those That Persecute Us.
2. Love Is Sympathetic Towards Those In Their Highs And Their Lows Of Life. It Is Only When Self Is Dead That We Can Take As Much Joy In The Success Of Others As In Our Own.
3. Love Is Humility Not Haughty In Mind. Our standard Of Greatness Is Not Based Upon One's Opinion, Or Even Based On What Others Say, But Based On What God Thinks And Says Of Us.
4. Our Enemies Are Overcome Through Kindness. The Way To Change An Enemy Is Through Kindness. To Stoop To Vengeance Is To Be Overcome By Evil.