



Talk it Over

PASTOR LYLE — ROMANS 12:9-21 – 9/14/25

KEY SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:9–21 (NLT)

9 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.
10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.
11 Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.
12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.
13 When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.
14 Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.
15 Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.
16 Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!
17 Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable.
18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.
19 Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord.
20 Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads."
21 Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

START TALKING

Summer is over, and we say goodbye to warm weather and vacations. For many, we settle back into more familiar routines and cold weather.
Now that we are back together, "What was the highlight of your summer?"

START DISCUSSING

CULTURAL MESSAGE

Pastor Lyle felt the need to change his plans and address the question, "**How do we respond to a hostile culture, or to someone who thinks of us as an enemy?**"

WE ARE A FAMILY

Read Romans 12:9-13

Pastor Lyle made the distinction that we are not a social group of friends, but a real family. He referenced a number of the "One Another" commands like love, tolerate, teach, and serve each other.

What difference does it make when we realize we are a family, God's family?

IN THE PRESENCE OF PERSECUTION

Read 12:14-16

Persecution (v14) is to be met with blessing, not cursing and praying for God to bless them.

Discuss what it means to bless someone, the opposite of cursing.

How would you pray for God to bless someone who mistreats you?

PEACEFUL AND HARMONIOUS LIVING

Verses 15 and 16 describe a life that seeks peace and harmonious living.

Discuss the five phrases in these verses that describe harmonious living.

NEVER PAY BACK EVIL

Read Verses 17-21

Verse 17 is where the rubber meets the road.

"Never" is an easy word to understand, but committing to never doing something is not easy.

Discuss this command to Never pay back evil with more evil."

Instead of paying back evil what are we to do.

Discuss the following

17 Be obviously honorable

18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

19 Never take revenge.

20 Meet the need of your enemy in very practical ways.

THE REAL BATTLE

V21 sums up what is at stake. Either you are conquered by evil in your response. Or you conquer evil by doing good.

Discuss how easy it is to be conquered by evil.

Discuss the steps laid out in the passage to enable us to conquer evil.

Commit to praying for each other in this battle.