

Bless
Rejoice
Weep
Live

Romans 12:14–16

BLESS

our words · v. 14

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not
curse them.

The Emanuel Nine

Mother Emanuel AME Church · Charleston · June 17, 2015



Clementa Pinckney



Cynthia Graham Hurd



Susie Jackson



Ethel Lance



DePayne Middleton-Doctor



Tywanza Sanders



Daniel Simmons



Sharonda
Coleman-Singleton



Myra Thompson

“

I forgive you and my family forgives you, but we would like you to take this opportunity to repent. Repent, confess, give your life to the one who matters the most, Christ ...

— Anthony Thompson, husband of Myra Thompson

“

... so he can change it, and change your ways no matter what happened to you, and you'll be okay through that. And better off than how you are right now.

— Anthony Thompson, husband of Myra Thompson

“

For me, I'm a work in progress, and I acknowledge that I am very angry. But one thing DePayne taught me [is that] we are the family that love built. We have no room for hate, so we have to forgive. ... May God bless you.

— Bethane Middleton-Brown, sister of Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor

REJOICE + WEEP

our presence · v. 15

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those
who weep.

“

Love that is genuine will not respond to a fellow believer's joy with bitterness, but will enter wholeheartedly into the same joy.

— Douglas J. Moo

LIVE



our posture · v. 16

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be
haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise
in your own sight.

“

As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.

— C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

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being—what we find there is: gentle and lowly.

Who could ever have thought up such a Savior?

God opposes the proud but
"I am gentle..." gives grace to the humble
Jesus was humble enough to
ride a donkey into Jerusalem

The Greek word translated "gentle" here occurs just three other times in the New Testament: in the first beatitude, that "the *meek*" will inherit the earth (Matt. 5:5); in the prophecy in Matthew 21:5 (quoting Zech. 9:9) that Jesus the king "is coming to you, *humble*, and mounted on a donkey"; and in Peter's encouragement to wives to nurture more than anything else "the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a *gentle* and quiet spirit" (1 Pet. 3:4). Meek. Humble. Gentle. Jesus is not trigger-happy. Not harsh, reactionary, easily exasperated. He is the most understanding person in the universe. The posture most natural to him is not a pointed finger but open arms.

"... and lowly ..."

... of "gentle."

“

The point in saying that Jesus is lowly is that he is accessible. For all his resplendent glory and dazzling holiness, his supreme uniqueness and otherness, no one in human history has ever been more approachable than Jesus Christ.

— Dane Ortlund, *Gentle and Lowly*

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“Gentle and lowly.” This, according to his own testimony, is Christ's very heart. This is who he is. Tender. Open. Welcome. Accommodating. Understanding. Willing.

— Dane Ortlund, *Gentle and Lowly*

“

If we are asked to say only one thing about who Jesus is, we would be honoring Jesus's own teaching if our answer is, gentle and lowly.

— Dane Ortlund, *Gentle and Lowly*