

# Living in Harmony

3.21.21 | Romans 12:16

## Overview:

Living in harmony is about putting aside our own pride and drawing each other to Jesus. We are to be of the same mind focusing on Him. Oftentimes our pride can get in the way of us being able to associate with those that are different than ourselves. The Gospel is what binds us together because we are all the same at the foot of the cross.

## Living in harmony is about focusing on the same Thing.

The thought in this verse is “live in harmony” the word that it is used is “phreno” meaning to think regard or hold an opinion.” Paul writes in his letter to Rome that we are to be of the same mind but this does not mean that we need to think the same thoughts. We all come from different backgrounds and have different experiences. What brings us together is the mercy and love of God. We are to be of the same mind meaning that we are focused on Jesus.

## We are to associate with the lowly just as Jesus did.

This phrase “associate with the lowly” is a little ambiguous. It could mean to associate with lowly people, or as the NLT phrases it “enjoy the company of ordinary people.” Or it could mean to do menial tasks. Perhaps Paul meant for the phrase to be ambiguous because both are important! We are to humble ourselves and serve God, no matter how small the task may seem. But we are also to love those who are lowly.

People are not actually lowly. It is our pride that can cause us to see others as lowly it is our sinful minds that see others as lower than ourselves. But we shouldn't! We are all sinners in need of Jesus' saving grace. The gospel has the power to change the way that we see people. We do not see them from a worldly perspective but rather have a mental shift where we see and love *all* people because they are image bearers of God that Jesus died for! Associating with the lowly means that we draw them in to see the beautiful gospel truth so that they can know God.

## Pride is the greatest obstacle of living in harmony.

Harmony is being of the same mind, focused on Jesus. But often times our pride gets in the way and we get focused on other things, thinking that we know best. Our culture puts a priority on being right over relationship. But we could be wrong about everything else but not about Jesus dying on the cross! Paul reminds us in the verse to not be conceited or think that we know it all. Instead we should look to and focus on Jesus because we are all living on God's mercies.



Our Transformed Life  
Living the Vision of Romans 12

## Discussion Guide

1. Read through all of Romans 12. How does reading the entire passage help us to understand verse 16? How does it fit into the broader narrative of our transformed life?
2. What does it mean to “be of the same mind”? Do you agree that it does not mean that we have to think the same thoughts?
3. Have you ever experienced the type of community that is “of the same mind” and points each other to Jesus? What did that look like?
4. Read Philippians 2:1-8. How is this passage similar to Paul’s message in Romans 12:16?
5. How does the Gospel change the way that we see people?
6. How can you practically “count others as more significant than yourself?”
7. How can you lean in and associate with the lowly this week?
8. Jefferson Bethke said, “It is a sign of idolatry if you are never wrong and they are always evil?” What do you think this means and do you agree?
9. Marika challenged us to focus on Jesus, that we could be wrong about everything else but not Jesus dying on the cross! How would you articulate the gospel to someone who has never heard why Jesus dying on the cross is important?