

Timeless Truth



ROMANS: CHAPTER TWELVE

WEEK TWELVE | CASEY SHEFFIELD

TIMELESS TEACHING |

Romans 12

DON'T CONFORM, BE TRANSFORMED

As we have seen in Romans chapters 1-11 Paul has been laying the groundwork of theological truth. He has been telling believers this is what you ought to believe and why they should believe it. As we move to Chapter 12, we are moving from the WHY to the HOW. Paul begins to explain to his readers how believers are to live out these truths that they have been taught. As we look at Romans chapter 12 today, we will see 3 distinct parts of a believer's life: **A Transformed Life, A Gifted Life and A Marked Life.**

I. A TRANSFORMED LIFE (Romans 12: 1-2)

When you put your faith and trust in Jesus you are immediately transformed from the inside out!

2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!".

There is no greater example of this transformed life than the life of Paul. Paul went from—

- persecuting Christians to proclaiming Christ
- being religious to redeemed
- being self-righteous to selfless
- being on a personal mission to passionate ministry

A. Completely Consumed (v. 1)

- We must lay our lives down on the altar and offer them as a living sacrifice to the Lord. Totally consumed, nothing left.
- That is true worship. Jesus wants all of you—not some of you, not a part

of you, but ALL of you.

B. Totally Transformed (v. 2)

Don't be conformed, BE TRANSFORMED!

- EYES: Who are you looking to—the WORLD or JESUS?
 - Are you looking to the world for approval or are you fixing your eyes on Jesus?
 - Are you viewing things through the right lens—A humanistic worldview or a biblical worldview?
- EARS: Who are you listening to—the LIES of the ENEMY or the TRUTH of GOD'S WORD?
 - The enemy is a deceiver and a LIAR! We have to listen to the right voice.
 - To be able to recognize that voice we must know it! My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27
- MOUTH: What are you speaking—DEATH or LIFE?
 - Are you constantly negative or consistently positive? Do you complain more than you compliment? Is your speech and attitude hateful and hurtful or honoring and helpful?
 - Proverbs 18:21(CSB) says: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue..."
 - Think about this—God created the world by speaking it into existence. Now I'm not saying we are like God, but our words are powerful and we can make or destroy someone's world with our words.
- NOSE: How do you smell—Like FILTHY RAGS or a PLEASING AROMA?
 - Are you trying to live a good life or be a good person in your own efforts? The bible tells us our righteousness is like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6).
 - Or are you fully surrendered to the Lord and living a spirit-controlled life? If so, your life is a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God (2 Corinthians 2:14-16).
- HANDS: What are you doing—MAN'S WILL or GOD'S WILL?
 - Where and with who do you spend most of your time?
 - Do you spend time each day with the Lord?
 - Do you read His word or waste your time reading the news or scrolling social media?
 - Do you talk with and about Him or gossip with and about friends?
 - Do you serve Him or are you serving your own interests?
- FEET: Which way are you going—the WORLD'S WAY or GOD'S WAY?
 - Are you following hard after God or chasing after the world?
- HEART: Who/What are you loving—the WORLD or GOD?

- Do you care more about the opinions of others than you do about what God says?
- What do you treasure (or love) most—Your family, friends, career, social status, possessions or God?
- Matthew 6:21 tells us that “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
- MIND: What are you thinking—WORLDLY THOUGHTS or GODLY THOUGHTS?
 - Are you depressed, anxious, angry, jealous or are you joyful even in affliction, patient in tribulation, at peace with God and fellow man?
 - Isaiah 26:3 ESV: You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

II. A GIFTED LIFE (Romans 12: 3-8)

When you put your faith and trust in Jesus you are immediately transformed from the inside out! And with that transformation comes special giftings.

A. A Guided Warning (v. 3-6a)

- Evaluate yourself honestly
- Everyone has a special part
- Exercise your gift

B. A Gracious Gifting (v.6-8)

- They are the Lord's to give:
Every gifting, ability, and talent we have are all from Him, through Him and unto Him! What exactly does that mean?
 - They are from Him—He gives us the gifts He wants us to have.
 - They are through Him—He enables us to be able to use the gifts He's given us.
 - They are unto Him—He wants us to use them for His glory.
- They are ours to use:
Our text lists 7 gifts the Lord gives believers. They are--
 1. Prophecy
 2. Teaching
 3. Exhortation
 4. Serving
 5. Mercy-showing
 6. Giving
 7. Leading (Administration)

We each have been given special gifts **BY** the Lord to use **FOR** the Lord and His glory!

III. A MARKED LIFE (ROMANS 12:9-21)

A. Be Like Jesus

- His life was marked by all these things.
- Jesus is THE Standard.
- Are you hitting the mark? In comparison to Him, how do you measure up? (Romans 3:23)

B. Live Like Jesus

- The Holy Spirit is the way we live out the standard.
- The only way our life can be marked by these things is if we allow the Holy Spirit to do the work in and through us.

C. Love Like Jesus (v. 17-21)

- The Lord is one who Judges who has met the standard.
- Those of us who are in Christ only meet the mark because of what Jesus did on the cross. His righteousness was credited to us and as a result we meet God's standard. "[God] made [Jesus] the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in [Jesus] we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Because God's standard is different from the world's we must love others differently than the world does. We must love according to HIS standard—not our own, not the world's but HIS. One of the ways we do this is by loving our enemy and overcoming evil with good. That is the gospel. That is exactly what Jesus did! While we were still enemies of God, He reconciled us to Himself through the death of His son (Romans 5:10).

May we all live lives that are:

Transformed by God's Word, Gifted by the Holy Spirit and Marked by the Gospel.

DON'T CONFORM

LOOKING to the WORLD

So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
2 Corinthians 4:18

LISTENING to LIES

... [the devil] has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.
John 8:44

SPEAKING DEATH

Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.
Ephesians 4:29

SMELLING FILTHY

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.
Isaiah 64:4

DOING MAN'S WILL

Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people.
Colossians 3:23

FOLLOWING the WORLD'S WAY

There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death.
Proverbs 14:12

LOVING the WORLD

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.
1 John 2:15

THINKING WORLDLY THOUGHTS

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.
Colossians 3:2



EYES



EARS



MOUTH



NOSE



HANDS



FEET



HEART



MIND

BE TRANSFORMED

LOOKING to JESUS

[Let us] look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...
Hebrews 12:2

LISTENING to THE TRUTH

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
John 10:27

SPEAKING LIFE

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.
Psalms 19:14

SMELLING PLEASING

For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.
2 Corinthians 2:15

DOING GOD'S WILL

I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart.
Psalms 40:8

FOLLOWING GOD'S WAY

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.
Psalms 119:105

LOVING GOD

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.
Deuteronomy 6:5

THINKING GODLY THOUGHTS

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!
Isaiah 26:3

WEEK TWEELEVE

ROMANS: CHAPTER TWELVE

DON'T COPY THE BEHAVIOR AND
CUSTOMS OF THIS WORLD, BUT LET GOD
TRANSFORM YOU INTO A NEW PERSON BY
CHANGING THE WAY YOU THINK. THEN
YOU WILL LEARN TO KNOW GOD'S WILL
FOR YOU, WHICH IS GOOD AND PLEASING
AND PERFECT.

ROMANS 12:2 NLT

DAY ONE

ROMANS 12:1-2 | Conformed or Transformed?



TIMELESS TRUTH |

...GIVE YOUR BODIES TO GOD BECAUSE OF ALL HE HAS DONE FOR YOU. LET THEM BE A LIVING AND HOLY SACRIFICE—THE KIND HE WILL FIND ACCEPTABLE...

ROMANS 12:1 NLT

Romans Chapter 12 begins with a life-altering appeal to every believer. In the first two verses Paul challenges us to pursue a life in Christ that is transformative. This drastic transformation will cost us all something, but the end result is a life we could've never even dreamed of living! Let's dive right into our text today—

Read Romans 12:1-2 ESV

In verse 1, Paul doesn't hold back. The first thing he tells us is to present our bodies as a living sacrifice.

What does Paul mean by "living sacrifice"?

For those of us who are believers, because of Jesus' sacrifice we have been made alive in Him—no longer dead but living (**Hebrews 9:11-18, Ephesians 2:4; 13**). As an act of worship we are to live our lives as a sacrifice unto Him. Paul tells us that not only should we present our bodies (meaning both body and soul—our whole person) as living sacrifices but that they should also be "holy and acceptable". One of the key ways we present our life as a "living sacrifice" that is holy and acceptable is by following the instructions Paul gives in verse 2.

Re-read verse 2.

What does being "conformed to the world" mean?

Take a moment to seriously examine your own life.

Read Psalm 139:23-24.

Ask the Lord right now to reveal any ways that you are living your life conformed to this world. You can even pray Psalm 139:23-24 back to the Lord. As you pray, don't forget to sit in His presence and listen for His response.

List the ways you are living your life conformed to this world that the Lord revealed to you below:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

It is important that we all take inventory and ask the Lord to examine our life on a regular basis. Now that we have identified ways that we have conformed to the world we must do something about it. The first part of Romans 12:2 tells us not to be conformed. SO, what are we supposed to do? The answer is found in the second part of that verse which says, "but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." The NLT says it this way: "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but **let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.**" You might be wondering: "But how do I do that?"

There are some practical things we can do to renew our minds, but we must remember the true work comes through the Holy Spirit working within our lives, hearts and minds. To renew our minds we need to—

- **Recognize the lie.** Ask God to reveal the truth.
 - The lie can be anything we believe that goes against what God says. It could be:
 - a thought—*at least I don't do that*
 - an action—*making others feel less than*
 - a belief—*I'm a good person*
 - a habit—*gossip*
 - an attitude—*self-righteousness*
- **Repent.** Ask God to forgive you for believing and/or acting on the lie. Choose to do what is right.
- **Replace the lie with the truth of God's Word.** Ask the Lord to give you truth from His word.
- **Recite Scripture.** When you are tempted to sin, recite God's Word instead of giving into sin.
- **Reach out.** Ask a friend to pray for you if you need accountability.
- **Renew your mind.** Watch the transforming power of the Holy Spirit work in your life and praise Him for it!

Rewrite your "Conformed List" from above in the **DON'T CONFORM** column below. Once you complete your list, look up scripture that deals with/addresses those particular "conformities" you have listed. Write those scripture references in the **BE TRANSFORMED** column. (i.e., Write the specific sin in the *Don't Conform* column and a scripture that helps transform your mind concerning that sin in the *Be Transformed* column)

DON'T CONFORM

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

BE TRANSFORMED

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Friend, don't be discouraged by the list above. Be encouraged because *God's word is transformative*.

Read Hebrews 4:12; Read Psalm 119:11

Don't underestimate the power of God's word, the importance of knowing it and hiding it in your heart!

Jesus Himself used scripture to defeat the enemy (*Matthew 4:1-11*)! How much more then do we need it to defeat the enemy?! Begin to memorize God's Word so that you can use it in your daily life. As a result, YOU WILL BE "transformed by the renewing of your mind." Take a few moments to write out the scripture verses from the references you listed above. Put them in your phone, write them on notecards, whatever you have to do to make them easily accessible so that when you are tempted to sin you are ready to combat and defeat the enemy using God's Word!

PRAYER MOMENT |

Make it a habit to pray Psalm 139:23-24 to the Lord: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life."

DAILY REMINDER |

His word is truth (John 17:17). And the truth will set you free! (John 8:32)

FURTHER READING |

Romans 5:1-17

Leaving Ordinary by Donna Gaines

Get Out of Your Head by Jennie Allen

*the Bible was not given for our information
but for our transformation.*

Dwight L. Moody

DAY TWO

ROMANS 12:3-5 | God Made You A Part



TIMELESS TRUTH |

DON'T THINK YOU ARE BETTER THAN YOU REALLY ARE.
BE HONEST IN YOUR EVALUATION OF YOURSELVES,
MEASURING YOURSELVES BY THE FAITH GOD HAS GIVEN
US.

ROMANS 12:3 NLT

Read Romans 12:3-5

Humility. We could all stand to have more of it. You may have read that and thought, “Speak for yourself. I try my best to stay humble.” I thought I did to until I heard this quote about humility that knocked me off my feet. **“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less.”** I think about myself way more than I’d like to admit. If we’re really honest, I think we all do. Think about it this way—I’m not shouting from the rooftops that I’m a great wife and mom even on my best day. You know the kind of day I’m talking about. Those days where the house is clean, the kids are getting along, the laundry is caught up, dinner is cooked (& delicious), dishes are done, everyone is happy and grateful for all your hard work that day. Ok, so maybe days like that don’t really exist. But back to my point even on a really good day I’m not bragging about what a great wife and mom I am. In fact, it’s generally quite the opposite. That’s being humble right? The answer: no, not really. Why? Because instead of proclaiming how great I am, I’m typically thinking about what a failure as a wife and mom I am. Whether you think positively or negatively about yourself, the point is: **YOU ARE STILL THINKING ABOUT YOURSELF!**

In Romans 12:3 what does Paul urge us to do concerning the way we think about ourselves?

Why do you think Paul warns us to “Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves...”?

The ESV states it this way: “think with sober judgment”. Pertaining to *sober judgment* John MacArthur says, “[Sober judgment] is the exercise of sound judgment, which will lead believers to recognize that in themselves they are nothing, and will yield the fruit of humility.” Speaking of fruit, read Jesus’ words in **John 5:5b**, “*I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.*” When we are honest with ourselves and use sober judgment we realize that we can do NOTHING...we are NOTHING apart from the saving work of the Holy Spirit. Another way we can look at it is found in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Think with me a moment about the example of the human body that 1 Corinthians mentions. The human body is intricately designed as many individual parts that make up the whole. Each part with a different function and responsibility that meets a need the body has to be able to operate properly. The body of Christ is the same way. We, as believers, all make up different individual parts of the body. All are needed and necessary for the body to function properly. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the head of the church (**Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23, Colossians 1:18**). Just like the brain controls every part of the body enabling it to function and move the way it is designed to the Holy Spirit equips and enables believers to do the work of the ministry that God has called each of us to. It is not about us, it is not because of us, but what a joy and privilege it is that He has chosen to use us!

As we close out our study today, take a few moments to examine your own life.

Do you think of yourself more highly than you ought to? If so, in what ways?

Do you think of yourself more lowly than you ought to? If so, in what ways?

However you think of yourself you must use sound judgment and remember that in and of ourselves we are **nothing**... BUT because of Christ (and in and through Him) we have **everything** needed to carry out the purposes He intended for us.

PRAYER MOMENT |

Praise the Lord today that you are a part of the body of Christ. Ask Him to help you to continually use sober judgment if/when you think about yourself.

DAILY REMINDER |

If you're a Christian, the body of Christ is not meant to function without you. You are a vital part of the body being able to function as the Lord intended it to!

FURTHER READING |

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Ephesians 4:4; 12-16

The only way the corporate Body of Christ will fulfill the mission Christ has given it is for individual Christians to have a vision for fulfilling that mission personally.

David Jeremiah

DAY THREE

ROMANS 12:6-8 | Gifted By God



TIMELESS TRUTH |

IN HIS GRACE, GOD HAS GIVEN US DIFFERENT GIFTS FOR DOING CERTAIN THINGS WELL...

ROMANS 12:6 NLT

Yesterday we began discussing the body of Christ and the fact that while each of us are different parts of the body we all function as one. Today we are going to look at those different parts and the important role they each play within the body of Christ.

Read Romans 12:6-8

In verse 6, Paul encourages believers in their gifts and implores them to use those gifts.

Below is a great explanation of each gift Paul mentions in our text. As you read through the list below (by Dr. Larry Gilbert, modified from "How Many Spiritual Gifts Are There?") think about how the Lord has gifted you.

- **Prophecy**: boldly and fearlessly proclaiming God's truth
- **Teaching**: making clear the truth of God's Word with simplicity and accuracy
- **Exhortation**: motivating others to action, application, and purpose
- **Serving**: providing practical help both physically and spiritually
- **Mercy-showing**: identifying with and comforting those in need
- **Giving**: releasing material resources to further the work of the Church
- **Leading (Administration)**: organizing, administering, promoting, leading

Did any of those gifts stated above resonate with you? If so, which one(s)?

How do you think the Lord has gifted you?

Are you using the gifts He has given you for His purposes?

If you haven't figured out or realized yet what your spiritual giftings are, spend some extra time with the Lord today asking Him to show you how He has gifted you and the purpose in which He intends to use it. The truth is whether you realize it or not we all have gifts that have been entrusted to us by God for the work of the ministry and the furtherance of the gospel. Using the gifts that He has uniquely bestowed upon us is one of the ways we glorify Him.

Now let's think for a minute about the spiritual gifts of others. Let's look back at part of the text we studied yesterday.

Read Romans 12:4-6

Are you ever jealous of others because of the spiritual gifts they have been given?

Do you ever feel like your gift isn't as important as some that others have?

The truth is none of us get to choose who gets what gift. That is the Lord's prerogative. I love how this quote puts it: "God deals to everyone his portion. Not everyone receives all the gifts, nor is the same gift given to everyone in the same measure. Our sovereign God distributes each gracious gift according to

the measure of faith that *He* has bestowed on us.” It is not about any of us. It is all about how Christ sees fit to use us in His plan. Sweet sister in Christ do you realize that *God doesn't need you to accomplish His purposes, but rather He wants to use you to do so?! What an undeserved privilege and awesome responsibility.*

Now let's read Colossian 3:17 CSB (Fill in the blanks below.)

“And _____ you do, in word or in deed, do _____
in the name of the Lord Jesus, _____ to God the Father
through Him.” (Colossians 3:17 CSB)

Did you notice what that verse said? It used 2 all encompassing words: whatever and everything. It didn't say “only if you have the gifts that put you in the spotlight”, or “only if you have the gifts that everyone notices”. It said *whatever* you do, do *everything* in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice also it said “giving thanks”. Not complaining or grumbling, or with jealousy in your heart, but giving thanks to God....that is how we are to use our gifts.

Your gifts are special. Not because you are special but because God intended them to be unique to you. He wants to use you and the giftings that He entrusted you with to further His kingdom. That in itself is a gift that none of us deserve.

PRAYER MOMENT |

As you spend time with the Lord in prayer today, thank Him for the unique gifts He has given you. Ask Him to give you a new desire and passion to use those gifts for His glory.

DAILY REMINDER |

God has equipped, empowered and entrusted you with gifts unique to who you are. Look for ways to use those gifts in your day-to-day life and glorify the Lord in them.

FURTHER READING |

1 Corinthians 12:1-11; 28-31

God's work done in God's way never lacks God's supply.

Elizabeth Elliot

DAY FOUR

ROMANS 12:9-16 | Good vs. Evil



TIMELESS TRUTH |

REJOICE IN OUR CONFIDENT HOPE. BE PATIENT IN TROUBLE, AND KEEP ON PRAYING.

ROMANS 12:12 NLT

In our text today, Paul clearly describes what a true Christian's life should be marked by. Let's read what Paul has to say:

Read Romans 12:9-16

Let's start by taking a deeper look into verse 9. I love how the ESV translates verse 9. It says: ***"Let love be genuine. Abhor [hate] what is evil; hold fast to what is good."***

The very first thing Paul tells believers to do is to let our love be genuine.

According to the Bible, what is genuine love and how are we to practically show it? (Bonus points if you can list specific scripture references.)

Our world today could greatly benefit from seeing (and experiencing) genuine love in action. The genuine love that Jesus showed to each of us was life changing. The genuine love of Jesus that we show others can be life changing for them as well!

The rest of verse 9 says, ***"Abhor [hate] what is evil; hold fast to what is good."***

How do you measure up? Is your love genuine? Do you hate evil and hold fast to what is good? At first glance, your initial response may be a resounding "YES." And in many ways it may be true. I'm sure most of us would check the boxes of hating evil like abortion, murder, fornication, etc. BUT the question is who's terms are we judging the standard by—ours or God's? Let's see what God says about evil.

Read Proverbs 6:16-19

List the 7 things the text mentions that the Lord detests:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

The reality is when it comes to what we consider evil man's standard is often skewed in comparison to God's standard. For time's sake we are going to look a little more in depth at one of the sins listed in the text above. The text says: The Lords detests "Hands that shed innocent blood". As we mentioned before, we probably all agree that murder is an absolutely evil sin. We see that and we think, "Well, I'm good on that one." But before we get too haughty, let's remember what God's word says:

Read 1 John 3:15

How do you measure up? So many times we good Bible Study girls lose sight of the real measuring stick when it comes to our sin. When we measure ourselves by our own human standard we seem pretty good but when we measure ourselves with the ruler of God's word we see we fall way short (**Romans 3:23**).

Do you ever use the wrong measuring stick (human standard vs. God's standard) when it comes to your own personal sin? If so, why?

If we are going to hate evil the way God does we must use His standard of measurement. He is holy, perfect, blameless, righteous and good. He is THE standard.

The rest of Romans 12:9-16 can be summed up in a single phrase: Be Jesus to the world. In His brief life on earth He did all the things listed in our text. He is our example. Take a moment to list some of the marks of a Christian Paul mentions in the text and think of ways that Jesus personified those.

Now think about your own life. What are some marks you may be “missing”?

This list can seem daunting and become overwhelming especially if we are looking inside of ourselves to meet each mark. But take heart...

Read Philippians 1:6

The Lord began His good work in you at salvation (which is what this verse is mainly speaking of), but friend the Lord didn't just save you and leave you hanging. He saved you, transformed you into the image of Christ and that work will continue until you see Him face to face. Part of that transformation is your sanctification. Therefore, it is the Lord's work in you that enables you to meet these marks. Don't get discouraged but *rejoice in the Lord and allow Him to do HIS work in you!*

PRAYER MOMENT |

Pray Romans 12:9 back to God. Ask Him to fill you with the genuine love of Christ and to hate what is evil and cling to what is good. Ask Him to help you to get out of His way so He can do HIS work in and through you.

DAILY REMINDER |

Don't try to measure up to anyone else's standards. Measure your life and actions by God's standards.

EXTRA TIME |

Spend some time in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) reading about the Life of Jesus.

Those that hate goodness are sometimes nearer than those that know nothing at all about it and think they have it already.

C.S. Lewis

DAY FIVE

ROMANS 12:17-21 | Loving the Unlovely



TIMELESS TRUTH |

DON'T LET EVIL CONQUER YOU, BUT CONQUER EVIL BY DOING GOOD.

ROMANS 12:21 NLT

The last section of our study can sometimes be a difficult one to live by. Before we go any further, let's read what it says.

Read Romans 12:17-21

I hate to say it but I told you so—this can be a tough one to hear and to live out. Have you ever been wronged by someone? Typically, more times than not, our first instinct after being wronged is to get back at those who have wronged us. I mean...they deserve it right?! What does verse 17 in our text say? Fill in the blanks below.

Never _____ evil with more _____. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are _____. (Romans 12:17 NLT)

Does being honorable in the face of evil mean that we are doormats and just turn a blind eye to evil? Absolutely not, in fact that would be just as evil!

So how then, do we do things in a way that we remain honorable?
(see Ephesians 4:15; 2 Timothy 2:24-25)

Paul is not saying we cannot confront evil, but rather it is HOW we confront the evil that matters. The next time someone wrongs you or does evil against you take heed not to repay evil with evil. Think about what

that means practically—don't gossip about the person who wronged you, don't shun them, don't try to figure out a way to get back at them. Instead, remain honorable— speak the truth to them in love and in a kind manner, show them love, confront them with pure, sincere, godly motives. *Be a peacemaker not a pot-stirrer!*

As he closes out the rest of Chapter 12, Paul reminds us that ultimately the Lord will take care of us when we have been wronged. I don't know about you but that, to me, is a very freeing thought.

Read Exodus 14:14

The Lord has a long history of proving Himself faithful in fighting for His children against the enemy. What are some biblical examples you can think of where we have seen the Lord fight on behalf of His people? List them below:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

We must be faithful to follow the Lord's commands and He will take care of the rest. Speaking of commands, read what Jesus has to say about how to treat your enemies.

Read Matthew 5:44-45 and Luke 6:27-28

According to the passages above, how are we to treat our enemies?

Jesus believed and lived so radically different than us. Everything He did (and still does) goes against our own human reasoning and comprehension. That is no truer than in the text we just read. Love our enemies....what?! For the majority, if not all, of us that just seems crazy. BUT His ways are higher (*Isaiah 55:8-9*). We may not understand it, we may not like it, but the fact of the matter is this: even when we don't see how *loving our enemy is the right thing to do* or understand why the Lord has commanded us to do so *it is what he has commanded us to do*. And somehow, some way He uses it for our good and His glory!

PRAYER MOMENT |

Ask the Lord to help you genuinely love others, especially your enemies.

DAILY REMINDER |

Love everyone you encounter today with the genuine love of Jesus!

EXTRA TIME |

Spend some time with the Lord reading back through Romans 12. Listen to and obey the Holy Spirit's promptings as you read.

*It's easy to talk about how much you love God,
but loving others reveals how much you truly do.*

Elizabeth George

RESOURCES |

ESV Study Bible

The MacArthur Study Bible, ESV

biblegateway.com

gotquestions.org

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