

Romans: Christian Living

(Romans 12-13)

Introduction:

1. Paul has spoken on many heavy topics:
 1. Division within the body of Christ.
 2. Justification for both Jew and Gentile
 3. God's sovereignty and election
2. In the rest of Romans, Paul is going to be making the application.
 1. (Romans 12:1) – A big “therefore.” It ties all the things that Pauls has been discussing and now calls the Christians to action.

I. Obligations to God

- A. (Romans 12:1-2)
- B. Present your Bodies
 1. This is a “reasonable worship” response to the mercies of God (chp 1-11)
 - a) This is our response to the mercy he has shown us.
 - b) Grace is something to be reciprocated.
- C. Be Transformed
 1. Transformation is not something we excel at.
 - a) Requires changing of mindset.
 - (1) (1 Corinthians 2:14-16)
 - b) Results in a changing of actions
 2. Too often, we abandon new Christians to figure out “transformation” by themselves.
 - a) As Disciples of Christ with experience, we need to train up others.
 - (1) (1 Corinthians 11:1)
- D. Discern and do the will of God
 1. Discernment requires knowledge
 - a) Knowledge comes from Study
 2. Discernment comes from experience
 - a) Experience comes from spiritual maturity.

II. Obligations to brothers

- A. (Romans 12:3-13)
- B. Act with humility and Appreciate one another
 1. Humility is not a common quality.
 - a) (Philippians 2:3)
 2. Show Appreciation to others!
 - a) Burnout is real.
 - (1) Barna — 42% of “pastors” considered quitting
 - (a) Anecdotally, I know this to be the case with my classmates.
 - b) There are many thankless jobs
 - (1) Ed, Lisa, Damian — Cleaning the building
 - (2) McCords, Youngs, Thomas — sound Room

- (3) Ladies cleaning the kitchen after every potluck
- c) Our gifts are different. They don't compete; they compliment!
- C. Love authentically
 - 1. The church must have real and meaningful relationships.
 - a) We are stronger together than apart — (Proverbs 21:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
 - b) People today crave community and relationships.
 - (1)
 - 2. Fellowship is not an option.
 - a) Jesus was a relationship builder — Apostles, sinners, etc.
- D. Show hospitality
 - 1. Welcoming people change lives.
 - a) When someone enters the church building, the two things they want to do most:
 - (1) Sit down
 - (2) Be acknowledged.

III. Obligations to Enemies

- A. (Romans 12:14-21)
- B. Bless them
 - 1. It is hard to do good when others do not.
 - 2. We are called to live to a higher standard.
 - a) We do not seek retaliation; we suffer the wrong (1 Corinthians 6:7)
- C. Live at Peace with them.
 - 1. We have a lot of Christians who do not seek peace.
 - a) I am not talking just about physical military war.
 - b) Many Christians do not seek peace:
 - (1) In their families.
 - (2) In the brotherhood
 - (3) In their communities.
 - 2. Christians are peacemakers
 - a) (Matthew 5:9) (Ephesians 2:14-16)
- D. Overcome evil with Good.
 - 1. Everyone suffers when evil overcomes.
 - a) Christians who have not overcome evil are embittered.
 - (1) Bitterness breeds resentment; resentment breeds hate.
 - 2. Everyone prophets when good overcomes
 - a) Christians who overcome evil with good are a beacon of hope. They turn their lives towards Christ. They are selfless and productive.

Conclusion:

- 1. We have been shown immense mercy and grace. We must show grace in return.
- 2. Since God has made you a Christian, its time to start acting like one.