



XII: For the World | Romans 12:9a, 14-21

Romans 12:9a, 14-21

⁹ Let love be genuine... ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

"...simply existing...being merely housed and fed and safe and alive—seems empty and meaningless to us. What more is it that we need in order to feel that life is worthwhile? The answer...is that we all seek a cause beyond ourselves." —Atul Gawande, *Being Mortal*

"No community on earth has the network, resources, institutions and motivation that the Church has. Its influence reaches everywhere; it operates hundreds of charitable organizations that provide a wide array of services to the needy; it believes in a message and way of life that the world needs and wants. Never before has the Church had such opportunity for influence. The biggest problem it faces is its own complacency and worldliness." —Gerald Sittser, *Water from a Deep Well*

Community for the World

Romans 12:15-16a

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another.

John 13:34-35

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Do I relate to my church family in a way that displays what Jesus is like?

Mercy and Justice for the World

Romans 12:16

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

Matthew 25:37-40

³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

“The impious Galileans [*i.e. Christians*] support not only their poor, but ours as well, everyone can see that our people lack aid from us.” –Roman Emperor Julian

Do I relate to those with less status than me in a way that displays what Jesus is like?

Grace and Truth for the World

Romans 12:14, 17-20

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them...¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”

“Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.” –Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *Strength to Love*

Romans 12:21

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Do I relate to those who do not follow Jesus in a way that displays what Jesus is like?

Romans 5:9-10

⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.