

## Romans 12:3-21

### Lesson 16

Almost invariably, Paul begins his letters dealing with doctrine and the believers position in Christ, before he deals with the duties of the believer. He is not contradicting the message of grace. Rather, he is reminding the believer of the response that should result due to the understanding and reception of the free gifts bestowed upon him by God. Romans 12 exhorts us in the areas of loving one another and properly using our gifts. May you be challenged as you study.

#### DAY ONE: Read Romans 12

1. Read through this week's verses. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
  - a. Romans 12 has been divided into three sections. Lesson 15 dealt with the first section, verses 1,2. List below the subject(s) covered in the last two sections.

**Verses 3-8**

**Verses 9-21**

2. Record the key words listed, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Romans 9.

Used in prior homework lessons: *God, Jesus (Christ)*

New to this lesson: *mind/think*

Remember, as you mark the words *God* and *Christ* to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them.

3. Romans 12 is full of instructions to the believer. Scan through the chapter and list some of them.

## DAY TWO: Read Romans 12:3-8

1. In view of what Paul had written previously in his letter to the Romans, he first pleaded with believers to present their bodies a living sacrifice to the Lord and to be transformed by the renewing of their mind. Paul then began to recount additional instructions to the believers for practical Christian living. In Romans 12:3-8 his focus is on believers and their service in the church. What is the first exhortation given in Romans 12:3?

Challenge: Define the word *soberly* as it is used in this verse.

- a. Using Romans 12:3, describe in your own words how the believer is to think of herself?
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2. What do you learn about the *body* of Christ (the church) from Romans 12:4,5?
    - a. In what way should this keep us from the following dangers:
      - 1.) feelings of superiority or inferiority
      - 2.) division
  3. Every believer is given at least one spiritual gift that is to be used. Out of the many gifts that are operational in the church, seven are named in verses 6-8. List them and record any instruction given.
    - a. Each and every believer has at least one spiritual gift. What would you say is (are) yours?
    - b. What do these verses teach about the attitude we are to have toward our gifts and the gifts of others?

## DAY THREE: Read Romans 12:9-13

1. *Love* is woven into each of the verses in Romans 12:9-13. Notice that every one of these verses contains two or more succinct exhortations. A complete message could be given on each. Record the exhortations found in Romans 12:9.

a. How can we make sure *our love is without hypocrisy*?

b. Share practical ways the last two instructions in Romans 12:9 can be followed.

2. What attitudes and actions should believers have according to Romans 12:10,11?

a. In which one of these do you feel most deficient today?

3. Thoughtfully consider the exhortations in Romans 12:12 as you fill in the missing words:

a. \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_;

b. \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_;

c. \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_;

1.) Review Romans 5:2-5 and share why a believer can do these three things.

4. What is the believer to do according to Romans 12:13?

a. Share a time when you have been the beneficiary of someone who obeyed this verse and what it meant to you.

#### **DAY FOUR: Read Romans 12:14-16**

1. Read Romans 12:14 and write it in your own words.

- a. What does Matthew 5:44 add to this?
  - b. Share an example of how you can do this.
2. What is the believer to do according to Romans 12:15?
    - a. Compare this verse with 1 Corinthians 12:26. What do you see?
      - 1.) What can we do to become more sensitive to others?
    - b. Which of the two exhortations in verse 15 do you find more difficult to do? Why?
3. Complete the following statements from Romans 12:16:
    - a. *Be of the*
    - b. *Do not set*
    - c. *Do not be*
  4. What does Philippians 2:2-4 say that helps you understand the *mind* or attitude we are to have?

**DAY FIVE: Read Romans 12:17-21**

1. What is the believer to do according to the following verses:
  - a. Romans 12:17

Challenge: What does it mean to *have regard for good things in the sight of all men*?

- b. Romans 12:18
  - c. Romans 12:19
2. What do the following verses tell us about *rendering evil for evil*:
- a. Proverbs 20:22
  - b. 1 Thessalonians 5:15
  - c. 1 Peter 3:9
3. To Whom are we to defer the taking of vengeance on another?
- a. Why is it important for us to remember this?
  - b. Why is it sometimes difficult to leave vengeance to the Lord?
4. Romans 12:20 is a quote from Proverbs 25:21,22. What counsel is given?
- a. What is the promise of Proverbs 25:22b to those who do this?
5. Think about the words of the final verse of this chapter (Romans 12:21). In what way is this a fitting conclusion to verses 17-20?
- a. How can we keep from being *overcome by evil*?
  - b. Give a practical suggestion of how to *overcome evil with good*.

### **DAY SIX: Review Romans 12:3-21**

1. How has your study of Romans 12:3-21 spoken to you about the need for:
- a. humility and love

- b. feeling superior or inferior in the body of Christ
- c. using your spiritual gift(s)
- d. hating evil/clinging to what is good
- e. patience in tribulation
- f. distributing to the needs of the saints/hospitality
- g. loving (and blessing) your enemies
- h. allowing God to avenge any evil done to you

2. In what way have you been motivated or challenged by these verses?

3. Briefly share any observation you made or insight you received through your study this week.

4. What practical application do you plan to make in response to Romans 12:3-21?

*Love, love, love, love,  
Christians this is your call.  
Love your neighbor as yourself,  
For God loves all.  
- Author unknown*