

September 3, 2017

Triumphant, Generous Grace

## ROMANS 12:9-21

***Don't just pretend to love others.  
Really love them.***

Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray God will bless them. Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all. Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all you can to live in peace with everyone.

Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD.

Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of fire on their heads."

***Don't let evil conquer you,  
but conquer evil by doing good.***

*At the root of Christian living is a foundation of God's love, demonstrated physically in Jesus Christ. At the starting point of Paul's instructions for Christian living is the very tangible Jesus. Christians love in real ways because Jesus loves in real ways (E. Verbosky, 2017).*

**Next week:** Romans 13:8-14

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Verse 9 & 21 introduce and summarize the loving assignment entrusted to us from Jesus, presented by Paul. Sandwiched between those two, are instructions filled with insight and challenge. Every remark is framed by the staggering view of Christ, demonstrating authentic love that stops evil in its tracks.

Be horrified by evil—be glued to what is good.

Love authentically. Be delighted to honor others.

Laziness is not for you! Ardent generosity is the best.

Ask God to bless those causing you trouble.

Share in people's joys and great sorrows.

Find ways to enjoy and live harmoniously with each other.

Spend companionable time with those who are neglected.

Never think too much of yourself. We're all broken.

Evil actions never unseat evil. Plan to be honorable.

Control yourself & endeavor to live peacefully with others.

Trust God to handle people and resolve their actions.

Revenge keeps evil alive & spreading—it's not for us.

Feed those who oppose you. Give them what they need.

Behave like Jesus with people and they will have added motivation and incentive to repent, receive forgiveness, and receive God's grace—as you have.

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