

## Romans 12:3-21

**Romans Chapter 12 overview.** Everybody who thinks that God is through with Israel needs to read this chapter. This chapter refutes a lot of things that are being taught today regarding Israel. This group of verses shows how to live our Christian life.

- 3 *For I say, through the grace that was given me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but so to think as to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to each man a measure of faith.* Don't get a big head and think you are better than anyone else just because you are a Christian. But we are to think of our Christian life sober, or in a very serious manner. Take your Christian life seriously.
- 4 *For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members have not the same office:* All of us Christians individually are unique people. We all have some type of gift to use for His service. We are to use our unique gift to serve God, no matter what it is, be it speaking in front of people, babysitting in the nursery during service, helping the elderly get to church. Whatever your gift is, it is important!
- 5 *so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and severally members one of another.* Everything we do affects everybody else in some manner, whether they are Christians or not. The way you behave and treat others is a witness for the Lord whether you are speaking about Him or not. Lay people pay very close attention to the way you behave, more so than your words.
- 6 *And having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of our faith;* Grace is a gift from God that we don't deserve but is given freely by Him. "Prophecy" has a two-fold meaning: to tell the future or to expound on the scriptures.
- 7 *or ministry, let us give ourselves to our ministry; or he that teacheth, to his teaching;* Billy Graham is a man who expounds on the Word of God. He reaches millions of people, and he will be judged accordingly, because Billy Graham is responsible for what he says and how he teaches the Word of God, just like any minister in the world. If you do something and it glorifies God and His kingdom, you are lifted spiritually and it is a gift. If you do something and it does not glorify God, it is not a gift.
- 8 *or he that exhorteth, to his exhorting; he that giveth, let him do it with liberality; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.* Exhort means to encourage someone to a better way of life. This means a better spiritual life, not materialistic. Use your time, talents and your money to honor God and His kingdom. Don't go around drunk saying "Look what I did!" The whole neighborhood doesn't need to know what you've done. You find people in need and you show mercy, you do it with the right attitude and with mercy, without getting glory for yourself.
- 9 *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.* "Dissimulation" means "hypocrisy". Don't say you love someone if you don't really love them in your heart. "Abhor" means "really hate". So stay away from evil things, with a vengeance.
- 10 *In love of the brethren be tenderly affectioned one to another; in honor preferring one another;* Love your Christian brothers and sisters in a manner that is stronger than your blood family.
- 11 *in diligence not slothful; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;* Do not lose your zeal for God. We as Christians should go out into the world and demonstrate our zeal for God.
- 12 *rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing stedfastly in prayer;* "Hope" means "look forward to", like looking forward to the return of Christ. Rejoice in the promises God has laid out for His people. Everyday think about the wonderful blessings from God that we have.
- 13 *communicating to the necessities of the saints; given to hospitality.* Every day we are tried, so be patient in tribulations and trust in God. Pray to God about everything you do and think. Always keep that communication open with God. Pray while you mow the yard, while you're at work, while you're relaxing in the tub. Pray

---

whenever you can. If you see someone who has a need, help them if you can. Don't wait to be asked. That doesn't mean pick up hitchhikers or anything like that, but be hospitable.

- 14 *Bless them that persecute you; bless, and curse not.* There are people in this world we do not like and that do not like us. Don't curse them. Pray for them and go on your way.
- 15 *Rejoice with them that rejoice; weep with them that weep.* Opposite ends of the scale: celebrate with those who have good things going on in their lives, and cry with those who have tribulations occurring.
- 16 *Be of the same mind one toward another. Set not your mind on high things, but condescend to things that are lowly. Be not wise in your own conceits.* We need to be real careful that we don't get an attitude that, these people got a lot of money, power and influence so I want to get close to them. Don't cut out the common people. Be real careful about choosing your group of friends. Don't base your choices on what a person has or on their appearance; base it on their character.

*Phillipians 2:2 make full my joy, that ye be of the same mind, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind;*

- 3 *doing nothing through faction or through vainglory, but in lowliness of mind each counting other better than himself;*
- 4 *not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others.*
- 5 *Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:* Pay attention to those around you who have needs.

*Romans 12:17 Render to no man evil for evil. Take thought for things honorable in the sight of all men.* Don't do evil for evil. Provide things that are honest and honorable.

- 18 *If it be possible, as much as in you lieth, be at peace with all men.* Everybody has encountered someone in their life who they can't get along with. Tell them "I'm sorry you feel that way. I'll pray for you." Be sure your life is in line with Jesus Christ, and be sure you are doing what you are supposed to be doing, and go on your way.
- 19 *Avenge not yourselves, beloved, but give place unto the wrath of God: for it is written, Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord.* There is a difference between defending yourself and plotting revenge on someone who hurt you or did you wrong. As a Christian, you back off and let God take care of the revenge. He will avenge you better than you ever could.
- 20 *But if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him to drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head.* Being nice to a person who is mean to you will be the best thing you can do for yourself and the worst thing you can do to your enemies. It "heaps coals of fire on his head."
- 21 *Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.* You can't overcome anything with evil, but you can overcome evil with good.