

Self-Sacrificing Love to All Men in All Situations

(Romans 12:14-21)

The Way to Teach Christ to the World

Elder Jeff Winfrey, Pastor
Dawson Springs Primitive Baptist Church
101 East Walnut Street
Dawson Springs, KY 42408
www.dspbc.com

I. Review

A. New Testament approaches as to how you live a life of faith

1. The kingdom of heaven is at hand

Mat 4:17 Jesus began to preach...Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

2. The New Covenant—The religion of understood forgiveness

Heb 10:16 This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

Heb 10:17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

3. Faith in grace to works—“Now you know grace, therefore”

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

B. The principles of living by faith begins with “church”

Rom 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

Rom 12:5 So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Rom 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;

Rom 12:7 Or ministry, *let us wait* on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

Rom 12:8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

C. Living the life of faith by serving others in the church

Rom 12:9 *Let* love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Rom 12:10 *Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

Rom 12:11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

Rom 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Rom 12:13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

II. Beyond the church—a life of self-sacrificing love to all men in all situations

Rom 12:14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

Rom 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

Rom 12:16 *Be* of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Rom 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

Rom 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Rom 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Rom 12:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Rom 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

III. Similarities between this passage and the Sermon on the Mount

Mat 5:11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Mat 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Mat 5:38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

Mat 5:39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Mat 5:40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have *thy* cloke also.

Mat 5:41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

Mat 5:42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Mat 5:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

Mat 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

IV. Meekness is not weakness—yet we can do it through Christ who strengthens us

Rom 12:14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

A. The example of Jesus—Stephen followed it—We are told to

Luk 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them...

Act 7:60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

1Pe 2:20 ...when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God.

1Pe 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

1Pe 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

1Pe 2:23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:

1Pe 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1Pe 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

B. The blessing and happiness of living life Jesus' way

1Pe 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

1Pe 3:10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

1Pe 3:11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

1Pe 3:14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy *are ye*: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

C. The inconsistent hypocrisy that kills Christianity

Jas 3:10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

V. A oneness with the feelings and situations of others

Rom 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

A. Certainly applies to relationships within the church

1Co 12:26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

B. Empathy for those who are sad and suffer

Heb 13:3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; *and* them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

Job 2:12 And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven.

Job 2:13 So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that *his* grief was very great.

Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities...

Joh 11:35 Jesus wept.

C. A rejoicing with sinners who repent and convert

Luk 15:5 And when he hath found *it*, he layeth *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing.

VI. A oneness in status with other men

Rom 12:16 *Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.*

A. Likemindedness and meekness with others—we are to have the mind of Christ

Php 2:2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

Php 2:3 *Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Php 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Php 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Php 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Php 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

B. Wrong attitudes within the church about those who come to church

Jas 2:2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

Jas 2:3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

Pro 19:7 All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth *them with words, yet they are wanting to him.*

C. Guard against the attitude of pride within the church

Luk 22:24 And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

VII. We are to repay evil with a public display of goodness

Rom 12:17 *Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.*

1Th 5:15 See that none render evil for evil unto any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.

Mat 5:39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil...

1Pe 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing...

Rom 14:16 Let not then your good be evil spoken of:

2Co 8:21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

1Th 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

VIII. We are to pursue all possible peace with all men

Rom 12:18 *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

Mat 5:9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Pro 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention...

Jas 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Jas 3:18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

IX. Vengeance belongs to God—God is the only righteous and perfect judge

Rom 12:19 *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

A. Do you suppose John had second thoughts on vengeance on a Samaritan village?

Luk 9:54 And when his disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

Luk 9:55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

Luk 9:56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save *them*. And they went to another village.

Act 8:14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Act 8:25 And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

B. If Jesus left the vengeance part to God—Shouldn't we?

1Pe 2:23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:

2Th 1:6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

X. If we do good to others—There is potential to change others

Rom 12:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

A. Even the Old Testament Law taught these principles

Exo 23:4 If thou meet thine enemy's ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again.

Exo 23:5 If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him.

B. This verse does not teach the 'backdoor' 'legal' way to get vengeance

Pro 24:17 Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:

Pro 24:18 Lest the LORD see *it*, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.

C. This is your way to convert your enemies to Christianity

1Pe 3:16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

Tit 2:7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine *shewing* uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

Tit 2:8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

XI. The Christian way of conquering—Confronting our culture without confrontation

Rom 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

1Pe 2:15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

Pro 16:32 *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*

Rom 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Rom 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Joh 18:11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath...

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight...

2Co 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

2Co 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

1Pe 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

1Jn 5:4 ... and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.