

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

Romans 12:9-21

Lesson 15

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. From last week's lesson or lecture, share a way you were prompted by the *mercies of God* to present yourself a *living sacrifice* for His use.

2. When your life has been fully given to God as a *living sacrifice*, your mind is also renewed and *transformed*. The result is a pattern of living that is distinct from the way non-believers live. As a *living sacrifice* to God, your priority is to live for God's purposes and to bless Him in all you do. This means that your priorities and objectives will reflect a life that is dedicated to God.

In Romans 12 Paul presented the priorities, pursuits, and objectives of a life fully given over to God. Read the sections below and list a few of these new pursuits:

- a. Romans 12:9-10
 - b. Romans 12:11-13
 - c. Romans 12:14-16
 - d. Romans 12:17-21
3. As you begin your lesson, place your life back on the altar of God.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:1

SECOND DAY: Read Romans 12:9-10

1. In Romans 12 Paul gave the believers practical exhortations to encourage their new lifestyle as a *living sacrifice*. Use Romans 12:9 to fill in the blanks with these exhortations:

a. Let _____ be without _____.

- (1) The phrase *without hypocrisy* means *sincere*. Why is it important that *love be without hypocrisy*?

b. _____ what is _____.

- (1) *Abhor* means *to have horror of, to utterly detest*. Why is it essential to regard *evil* in this way?

c. _____ to what is _____.

- (1) *Cling* means *to cement, to join oneself to*. Comment on what believers are to *cling to*.

2. Use Romans 12:10a to describe in your own words the kind of relationships we should have with other believers.

3. From Romans 12:10b comment on how we are to *honor* one another.

a. The NLT says we are to *take delight in honoring each other*. Why is this noteworthy?

4. From your study today, how do Paul's exhortations challenge you in terms of:

a. Your relationship with God

b. Your relationships with others

THIRD DAY: Read Romans 12:11-13

1. In Romans 12:11-13 Paul continued his exhortations to the believers concerning their walk with the Lord. Use these verses to list each exhortation and give an example of how this is practiced:

Verse	Exhortation	Practice
verse 11a		
verse 11b		
verse 11c		
verse 12a		
verse 12b		
verse 12c		
verse 13a		
verse 13b		

- a. Which of these exhortations do you find most compelling?
- b. Which of these exhortations is the most challenging?
- c. Which of these exhortations do you most need to heed right now?
- d. Why are these exhortations critical to the person who desires to be a *living sacrifice*?

FOURTH DAY: Read Romans 12:14-16

1. According to Romans 12:14, how are we to treat those who *persecute* us?
 - a. Link this with Jesus' words in Matthew 5:44-46. What do you see?
2. From Romans 12:15 record how we are to care for one another.
 - a. Connect this with 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 and share your thoughts.
3. Romans 12:16a exhorts us to *be of the same mind toward one another*. Use the following Scriptures to comment further on what this looks like:
 - a. 1 Corinthians 1:10
 - b. Philippians 2:2-3
 - (1) Why do you think this type of living is so challenging?
4. Romans 12:16b (NLT) says, *Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!* How does this type of attitude promote unity among believers?
5. How does our attitude toward believers and non-believers reflect our status as a *living sacrifice* to God?

FIFTH DAY: Read Romans 12:17–21

1. Romans 12:17a (NLT) says, *Never pay back evil with more evil*. Why is this an important guideline for believers? See also 1 Peter 3:8–9.
 - a. Rather than returning evil for evil, what are believers to do? Romans 12:17b
2. Use Romans 12:18 to describe how we are to endeavor to *live*.
 - a. Paul used the phrase, *If it is possible, as much as depends on you*. Why is this phrase essential to remember?
3. According to Romans 12:19, why are we not to *avenge* ourselves?
 - a. Romans 12:19 in the NLT reads, *Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God*. Why should believers leave all vengeance to God?
 - b. Connect Romans 12:19b with Psalm 37:8–9 and share your thoughts.
4. Rather than seeking vengeance, how are believers to treat their enemies? Romans 12:20
 - a. Link this with Luke 6:35. What do you see?
5. Record Paul's final statement concerning these things in Romans 12:21.
 - a. Share a testimony of overcoming *evil with good*.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From your study this week, share what spoke to you concerning:
 - a. Love
 - b. Fellowship
 - c. Humility
 - d. Enemies
2. How do the exhortations of Romans 12:9–21 reflect the lifestyle of a *living sacrifice* to God?

*Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love,
in honor giving preference to one another.*
Romans 12:10