

**Mission Statement:** *to passionately serve GOD and to compassionately serve others—ALL to the glory of GOD!*

**Review:** With v. 9 Paul begins a new section which goes until the end of the chapter. Paul lays out the disposition of love the Christian is called to have in every area of their conduct—the *love* of Christ must be at the heart of our every action.

Today let’s consider v. 17-21 and see the Christian’s sphere of influence toward those who are our enemies and see how our genuine love is to be displayed or manifested toward them.

Q: Does God see your Christian conduct manifesting itself in the form of genuine love?

**I. It is manifested in an \_\_\_\_\_ Response (Romans 12:17)**

**A. Consider the rule of \_\_\_\_\_**

The idea of “*recompense*” is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Often we allow our definition of morality to be dependent upon the situation or our environment.

**Proverbs 20:22** Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait [patient confidence] on the LORD, and He shall save thee.

Waiting upon the Lord is not without its difficulty, but it has a great reward as we learn to wait upon God. “*He shall strengthen thine heart*” (Psa 27:14).

**1 Peter 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.

Cf. 1 Peter 2:21-23

**The key to being obedient to this command is to be diligent to renew our minds with God’s Word—God’s mind. It is learning to love how God loves and that is with genuine, non-hypocritical love.**

**B. Consider the rule of \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**Philippians 4:8-9** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true,... think on these things. **9...** and the **God** of peace shall be with you.

**II. It is Manifested in a \_\_\_\_\_ Response (Romans 12:18-20)**

Q: How do we do this? How can we respond with peace?

**A. Give Others Your \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 18)**

Notice the personal responsibility here, “*as much as lieth in you.*”

It begins with our outlook on others. (Romans 12:10) It is easier to give others our peace when we are “*preferring honor*” for them.

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

The disciples of Christ are to possess this characteristic.

**B. Give God HIS \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 19)**

**Barnes** – To “*avenge*” is to take *satisfaction* for an injury by inflicting punishment on the offender.

**Deuteronomy 32:35** To **Me** *belongeth* vengeance [*revenge*], and recompence [*retribution*]; their foot shall slide in *due* time: for the day of their calamity *is* at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

**C. Give Your Enemy \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 20)**

Cf. Proverbs 25:21-22

**Romans 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.

Cf. Matthew 5:44-48

**III. It is Manifested in a \_\_\_\_\_ Response (Romans 12:21)**

The word “*overcome*” carries the idea to subdue or be \_\_\_\_\_.

By giving in to the natural response of retribution, the enemy has victory and Christ is not honored.

Q: In what ways are you allowing sin to overcome you? What steps will you take to be victorious?

**Being distinctly Christian flows out of a heart of genuine love and humility. These are essential in the Christian life.**

**What is my next step?** (*Put off* sin – confession; *renew my mind* with Christ and His thoughts; *put on Christ* and His character)