

# Week Five: Discussion Questions

UPSIDE DOWN CARE: HUMBLE PURSUIT

ROMANS 12:13-16



1. What impacted you from last week's message.
2. How do you see Jesus both modeling and teaching the disciples about caring for people's needs and showing hospitality? Why do you think this was an important lesson for Him to teach them?
3. What is the difference between obeying this command as an act of worship to the Lord versus doing it from some other motivation? What other motives could there be?
4. How did Jesus model Romans 12:14 to Judas?
5. Please read Luke 22:39-51 and think of all the people mentioned in this passage. Which person do you most see yourself in? Why?
6. Who in your life is God calling you to model Romans 12:14 to, and what is one step you can take toward blessing them?
7. How does the fact that Jesus already had a plan to raise Lazarus from the dead impact your understanding of God's view of your own sorrows?
8. Think about living out Romans 15:14.
  - a. What effect does our pride have on it?
  - b. What effect does our humility have on it?
  - c. What effect does the pride or humility of others have on it?
9. Please look at John 5:19-20, 25-27. What evidence do you see of Jesus and the Father living in harmony?
10. Please note John 5:30.
  - a. How is Jesus, who is God, choosing not to be wise in His own sight?
  - b. How were the Jews choosing to be wise in their own sight?





III. Principle 3: Overcome \_\_\_\_\_ in and around you by doing \_\_\_\_\_. (20-21)

# Week Five: Homework

UPSIDE DOWN PEACE: PRINCIPLES OF RELATIONAL PEACE

ROMANS 12:17-21



## DAY ONE

**PRAY:** As you begin studying today, ask the Lord to show you the steps that you can take this week to seek peace in all your relationships.

**MEMORIZE:** This week we will be reviewing our memory passage from the study. Let's begin with Romans 12:1a. Look back at the verse from week 1 homework and try to say it from memory. Thank the Lord for His great mercies and tell Him of your desire to live as a sacrifice for Him.

**STUDY:** As we close out our study of Romans 12, we come to a challenging passage. Paul has been calling us to live as sacrifices to the Lord as we relate to others: to those in the church, to our family and friends and to those we have daily contact with, and even with our enemies. How do we as believers respond to hostility and mistreatment from others? Begin by reading our passage this week, Romans 12:17-21, and then answer the questions.

1. Thinking about verse 17, what is our natural instinct when dealing with people who have hostility toward us?

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2. Verse 18 could be translated: "Give thought in advance to do what is good in the eyes of all people". How would doing this help you to live peaceably with everyone and respond in a way that honors the Lord?

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3. Why do you think that, "vengeance belongs to the Lord" (vs 19)?

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4. How are we to treat those who mistreat us according to verse 20? Why do you think we as believers are called to do good even when we are mistreated?

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5. \*Read 1 Peter 2:20-23. How did Jesus respond when he was reviled and hated? How can Christ's response help you in dealing with hard relationships and hurt?

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*Close your study time with prayer, telling the Lord one aspect of Romans 12:17-21 that you are thankful for.*

## **DAY TWO**

**PRAY:** As you begin studying today, meditate on Matthew 5:9, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and understanding to know how you can be a peacemaker that honors Him.

**MEMORIZE:** Refer to Romans 12:1b from week 2 homework. Try to say the verse from memory. Thank the Lord that because of Christ you can worship Him in spirit and truth.

**STUDY:** Have you ever desired payback when you’ve been hurt or mistreated? Maybe you didn’t act on those feelings, but you secretly hoped the person who harmed you would suffer just like you suffered. God calls believers to a higher standard of living when we relate to people who have hurt us, He calls us to pursue peace. How can we live as sacrifices to the Lord and live peaceably with all people? Begin by reading Romans 12:17-18 and then answer the questions.

1. Notice vs 18, “if possible, so far as it depends on you”. What does this signify about the peace that Christ calls us to?

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2. \*What kind of behaviors should you go after to promote peace in your relationships? What do you think it looks like to be a peacemaker?

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3. Read James 3:17-18. How does this passage help you to better understand what it means to be a peacemaker?

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4. \*Is Paul advocating peace at any cost in this passage? (To help answer this question, again look at James 3:17-18 and note that the wisdom from above is first pure and then peaceable.)

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5. Are there any steps that you need to take today to be a peacemaker in your relationships? What specific steps do you need to take? (This includes close relationships like family and friends, relationships in the body

of Christ, work relationships, relationships with acquaintances, your presence on social media, strangers that you come into contact with, etc.)

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*Close in prayer, telling the Lord one step you will take today to pursue peace in your relationships this week.*

### **DAY THREE**

**PRAY:** Meditate on Romans 5:8, “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Begin by asking the Lord to open your eyes to how you can love others, even those who hurt you, just as Christ has loved you.

**MEMORIZE:** Refer to your memory verse from week 3, Romans 12:2a. Try to say the verse from memory. Thank the Lord for the transforming work that He is doing in your life.

**STUDY:** As we continue studying peace today, Paul challenges us with 2 specific commands. If you were to obey these commands fully, how would your relationships change? How do these commands help you in your pursuit of being a peacemaker in God’s upside down kingdom? Read Romans 12:17-18 again and then answer the questions.

1. From verse 17, what two steps does Paul tell us need to be taken if we want to pursue peace? After writing these directives, circle the actions that you are to take.

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2. \*The first command Paul gives us states, “Repay no one evil for evil.” This command is not only talking about our behavior, but also our words and thoughts and attitudes. How are you doing at forgiving others by not repaying them evil for the hurt they cause you: in your action? In your speech? In your thoughts? In your attitudes?

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3. Read Colossians 3:13. Why do we forgive this way, completely and from the heart?

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4. Romans 12:17b gives us Paul’s second directive. It states, “...give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.” What are some standards of good that would be right in the sight of all men? Where do these standards of good and right come from?

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5. \*What is the difference between doing what is honorable before all men and being a people pleaser?

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*Close in prayer. Ask the Lord to help you to live according to His standards as you pursue peace, love, forgiveness, and right living.*

## **DAY FOUR**

**PRAY:** Meditate on Proverbs 20:22. Thank the Lord that he is the God of justice. Ask the Lord to give you a better understanding of his vengeance and justice as you study today.

Proverbs 20:22, “Do not say, “I will repay evil”; wait for the Lord, and he will deliver you.’

**MEMORIZE:** Refer to your memory verse from week 4, Romans 12:2b. Try to say it from memory. Thank the Lord that His will is not hidden but that it is knowable as you seek Him.

**STUDY:** What does it mean that God is the God of vengeance? How can this truth help you as you deal with hurt and strive for peace in your relationships? Begin by reading Romans 12:19-21. Then answer the questions below.

1. What are we to never do according to verse 19? Knowing that God calls us not only to right action but also right thinking and a right heart, what do you think this command looks like?

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2. \*The next phrase in verse 19 is actually a quote from Deuteronomy 32. Read Deuteronomy 32:34-36. How does this passage help you to understand God’s wrath, vengeance, and justice?

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3. \*Do you find it hard to leave justice and wrath in God’s hands when you have been wronged? Why or why not?

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4. On Day One we looked at Jesus’ example in 1 Peter 2:23. Look at this passage again. What can you learn about how to respond when you are wronged? What can you learn about leaving vengeance in the hands of the Father?

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5. Not only are we called to not seek vengeance, we are called to take our response a step further. What does verse 20 tell you about how you should respond when you are wronged?

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*Close in prayer. Ask the Lord to help you trust him as the just judge and commit to prayerfully seeking the good of those who might be considered your enemy.*

## **DAY FIVE**

**PRAY:** As you begin studying today, ask the Lord to help you to obey and put His word into practice, remembering that “the word of the Lord is right and true” and “He is faithful in all He does” (Psalm 33:4).

**MEMORIZE:** Let’s put together all we have learned over the past few weeks. Try to write Romans 12:1-2 from memory. Ask the Lord to help you live as a sacrifice to Him as you obey His word.

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**STUDY:** What does it take to live in victory over evil? Maybe some would answer prayer, godly leadership, or godly training. But what does God’s word tell us it takes to conquer the evil we find in ourselves and around us? Today we will continue to study Romans 12:19-21, as we look at our call to do good and gain victory over evil. Begin by reading the passage and then answer the questions.

1. \*How would doing good to your enemy overcome evil...

a. In your own heart?

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b. In the heart of your enemy?

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c. In the world around you?

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2. \*In Romans 12:20, Paul quotes another Old Testament passage, Proverbs 25:21-22. How does giving our enemy what he needs instead of what he deserves “heap burning coals on his head”? What should be our

motivation behind this action, remembering that we are called to love our enemies?

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3. \*Read Luke 6:27-36. List specific ways that you can overcome evil with good from the examples that Jesus gives.

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4. What actionable steps could you take today to apply one or two of these examples to your life?

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5. What's one take away that you need to apply to your life from the passage this week?

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The call to us this week is difficult, but because of God's Spirit and strength in us we can walk out these directives with power and victory! This is what it means to lay down self and live as a sacrifice to the Lord. Is there a specific person that you need to love in a fresh way today?

*Close in prayer, asking the Lord to empower you to live as a sacrifice as you seek to overcome evil with good by loving others as He has loved you.*