

Expectations

Ephesians 3:20-21

How can we succeed in our relationships?

Love one another with brotherly affection.
Outdo one another in showing honor.

[Romans 12:10]

A. The Transformed Life [Romans 12:1-2] [Renewed and Discerning]

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:10

B. Strength in Community [Romans 12:3-8] [Different, but Unified - Gifts of Grace]

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

C. Love Elevated [Romans 12:9-21] [Practice Makes Perfect]

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

Study Questions/Prayer

- [1] Read Romans 12:1-2. How can we present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, as described in these verses?
- [2] Read Romans 12:3-8. What does it mean to have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, and how should we use them as outlined in these verses?
- [3] Read Romans 12:9-21. How can we practice genuine love and outdo one another in showing honor, as instructed in these verses? When you read Paul's list of practical ways that reflect genuine love and a desire to honor people, what three disciplines, actions or attitudes can you try to use this week to bless those around you?
- [4] Pray for God to elevate our love for each other as the body of Christ, our families, and our relationships with our neighbor.

Romans 12:1-21 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, [1 Corinthians 1:10, 2 Corinthians 10:1, Ephesians 4:1] to present your bodies [Romans 6:13, 6:16, 6:19, Psalm 50:13-14, 1 Corinthians 6:20, 1 Peter 2:5] as a living sacrifice, [Hebrews 12:10] holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, [1 Peter 1:14, 1 John 2:15] but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, [Titus 3:5, Psalm 51:10, 2 Corinthians 4:16, Ephesians 4:23, Colossians 3:10] that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. [Ephesians 5:10, 1 Thessalonians 4:3]

³ For by the grace given to me [Romans 1:5] I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, [Romans 12:16, Romans 11:20] each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. [1 Corinthians 7:17, Ephesians 4:7] ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, [1 Corinthians 12:12-14, Ephesians 4:4, 16] ⁵ so we, though many, [1 Corinthians 10:17, 33] are one body in Christ, [1 Corinthians 12:20, Ephesians 4:13, John 17:11] and individually members one of another. [Ephesians 4:25, 1 Corinthians 6:15, 12:27] ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, [1 Corinthians 12:4, 1 Peter 4:10-11, 1 Corinthians 7:7, 12:7-11] let us use them: if prophecy, [1 Corinthians 12:10, Acts 13:1] in proportion to our faith; [2 Timothy 2:15] ⁷ if service, in our serving; [Acts 6:1] the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; [1 Timothy 5:17, 1 Corinthians 12:28] the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. [2 Corinthians 9:7]

⁹ Let love be genuine. [2 Corinthians 6:6, 1 Timothy 1:5, 1 Peter 1:22] Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. [Psalm 97:10, Amos 5:15, 1 Thessalonians 5:21-5:22] ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. [Hebrews 13:1] Outdo one another in showing honor. [Philippians 2:3, 1 Peter 2:17] ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, [Acts 18:25] serve the Lord. [Acts 20:19] ¹² Rejoice in hope, [Romans 5:2] be patient in tribulation, [Hebrews 10:36] be constant in prayer. [Acts 1:14] ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints [Romans 15:25, 1 Corinthians 16:1-15, 2 Corinthians 9:1, 12, Hebrews 6:10, 13:16, 1 Timothy 6:18] and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. [Matthew 5:44, 1 Peter 3:9] ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. [1 Corinthians 12:26, Job 30:25, Hebrews 13:3] ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. [Romans 15:5, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Philippians 2:2, 4:2, 1 Peter 3:8] Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. [Romans 12:3, Psalm 131:1, Jeremiah 45:5] Never be wise in your own sight. [Romans 11:25, Proverbs 3:7] ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, [Proverbs 20:22, Matthew 5:39, Romans 14:19] but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. [2 Corinthians 8:21, Romans 14:16] ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. [Mark 9:50] ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, [Proverbs 20:22, Matthew 5:39, Romans 14:19] but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." [Hebrews 10:30, Deuteronomy 32:35, Psalm 94:1, 1 Thessalonians 4:6] ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." [Proverbs 25:21-22, Exodus 23:4-5, 2 Kings 6:22, Luke 6:27] ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.