



RENEWING OUR MINDS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

ROMANS 12:14-21 * AUGUST 20, 2023

INTRODUCTORY ELEMENTS

ROMANS 12:1-2; 9-10; 14-21

- ① We must take _____ of our own actions.
- ② When Scripture gives a _____, it means we are _____ of doing so.
- ③ Love begins when the relationship is no longer _____.

RELATIONSHIPS TRANSFORMED

JAMES 1:19-20; PHILIPPIANS 2:3-5; 1 CORINTHIANS 13:7

- ① Being transformed in my relationships means thinking differently about my _____.
 - We are not a _____ of our genes or our upbringing.
 - I'm not able to say that I'm an _____ person; but I am a person who chooses to let my circumstances gain the _____ over me.

- ② Putting the interests of others first means that I will seek to _____ and I will practice _____.
- ③ There is often a _____ between my expectations and my actual experience; I must learn to be _____ in my explanations for the gap.
- ④ To avoid a vengeful heart, remember that _____ people _____ people.
- ⑤ We are _____ for the stewardship of our relationships.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Is there someone in your past (or maybe present) who has done you evil? What wrong responses are you tempted to do?
2. Read Romans 12:14-21. Relational growth takes an ongoing commitment to make good choices and to put ourselves in a place where God can grow us. What do these "quick hit" verses tell us about our responsibility in the process of relational transformation?
3. Quick hits: How is a Christian to treat enemies (verses 14, 17-21)? With whom does God want us to live at peace (v. 18)? What does "as far as it depends on you" mean in this context (v. 18)? What is the purpose of showing kindness to an enemy (v. 20)? Why is it wrong to repay evil with evil (v. 21)?
4. What would it look like for you to overcome evil with good in the situation you recounted in question #1 (verses 19-21)?
5. Read James 1:19-20; Proverbs 17:28 & 18:2, 13; Isaiah 50:4. This week we talked about the role of active listening in empathy (see #2 above). How do these verses add to our understanding of the interests of others and of active listening?
6. How would the kind of actions Paul describes in Romans 12:14-21 begin to transform your relationships with family, co-workers, friends, strained relationships, etc.?