

THE SPIRIT-CONTROLLED LIFE – PART 5

--ROMANS 12:14-17--

INTRODUCTION:

This morning is our fifth Sunday in this final passage of Romans 12 where Paul describes for us what the disciplined, obedient, Spirit-controlled Christian looks like. He does this through a series of exhortations to us to practice certain characteristics in our lives that are distinctively Christian and unmistakably supernatural and can only be produced in the believer who is controlled by the Spirit of God.

These characteristics fall into four categories that are like ever widening circles in those who will observe these characteristics in our lives. We have looked at the first three categories and this morning we will look at the fourth and final in this chapter, this circle widens to include those who would call themselves our enemies and how we are to respond to them.

IV. DUTIES OF THE SPIRIT-CONTROLLED LIFE – ENEMIES

(Romans 12:17-21)

- a. As we begin this next category that widens once again to include those who would call themselves our _____.
- b. What are our _____ as obedient, disciplined, Spirit-controlled Christians to those who are our personal enemies?

IVa. Never return evil for evil (Romans 12:17a)

- a. Paul begins this section with a very straightforward exhortation, “*Never _____ back evil for evil to anyone.*” (Romans 12:17a, NASB95) (Romans 12:14)
- b. The Old Testament law that demanded an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth was not talking about personal _____, but about civil justice. (Romans 13:4b)
- c. Paul had stated this same _____ to the Thessalonian believers. (1 Thessalonians 5:15)
- d. Peter said that same thing as _____ did. (1 Peter 3:8-9)
- e. Paul in 1 Thessalonians and Peter in 1 Peter wrote that instead of evil for evil we are to give back _____ or blessing for evil.

IVb. Respect what is right (Romans 12:17b)

- a. Paul goes on in verse 17 to say, “_____ *what is right in the sight of all men.*” (Romans 12:17b, NASB95)
- b. This word “_____” has more to its meaning than just providing, it also means “to take thought of.”
- c. This word translated “_____” is a word that means basically good, proper, and honest.

IVc. Be at peace with everyone (Roman 12:18)

- a. Paul goes on to exhort us to be at _____ with all people, including our enemies.
- b. It takes two to make peace, you do all you can to make peace, but in the end, it _____ on the other person.
- c. What Paul is _____ saying is that we should compromise the truth to make peace. (Matthew 5:9)

IVd. Leave revenge to the Lord (Romans 12:19)

- a. In these next two verses Paul reiterates what he has already said about _____ our enemies, about not paying back evil for evil, but instead to seek to be at peace.
- b. Paul writes, “*Never take your own _____, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,’ says the Lord.*” (Romans 12:19, NASB95) (Deuteronomy 32:35)

IVe. Overcome evil with good (Romans 12:20-21)

- a. Paul goes on to explain to us that not returning evil for evil does not fulfill our _____ to our enemies.
- b. Instead of revenge, Paul tells us what we are to do, and he again quotes from the Old Testament, from Proverbs 25:21-22, he writes, “*BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS _____, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS _____, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.*” (Romans 12:20, NASB95)
- c. Paul concludes this chapter on the Spirit-controlled life with this final thought, he writes, “*Do not be _____ by evil, but overcome evil with good.*” (Romans 12:21, NASB95)

- d. Paul says, instead _____ evil with good, to do this is distinctively Christian and shows that we are controlled by the Spirit of God.
- e. Our Lord Jesus makes many _____ to those who overcome. In the seven letters to the churches in Revelation 2-3 the Lord makes seven promises to those who overcome. (Revelation 2:7; 2:11; 2:17; 2:26-28; 3:5; 3:12; 3:21)

CONCLUSION:

We have come to the end of Romans 12:9-21 which we have covered over the last 5 weeks Paul has described the supernatural lifestyle to us. This is the lifestyle of one who is an obedient, disciplined, Spirit-controlled Christian. In our humanness it is not the normal or natural lifestyle.

This should be the lifestyle of the one who has placed his faith in the saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, the one who has contemplated the mercies of God, all that is ours because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The spiritual blessings that are ours because Jesus paid the penalty of our sin and triumphed over sin, death, and Satan when He rose; so that we are now forgiven, justified, reconciled to God, covered by Christ's mantle of righteousness, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. As we understand the price that was paid for our salvation and justification, our spiritual act of worship should be complete surrender to God's will and control for the glory of God. Are you willing to lay it all on the line, abandon yourself to the Lord and allow the Holy Spirit to take control of your life and transform your natural life into the supernatural life described for us here to the glory of God? This is the person God wants you to be, but it requires obedience, complete obedience to His Word, it requires surrender and subordination to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Master. It requires discipline to stay the course and beat back the natural desire and allow the supernatural to take over. This takes discipline, it is not easy, but it is utterly pleasing to God and brings Him glory and that is the purpose for which we were created.