

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? Circle Two Opportunity...

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth
2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

Session 9: Romans 12:18-21

Romans 12:18-21 (ESV) ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 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.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Vs. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

†We are to live at peace with ALL people, as much as we can

Luke 10:30-37 (ESV) ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

Questions to ask ourselves:

- Do we consider what a person is going through that caused them to make their choice?
- Are we attempting to walk in another person’s shoes, to have empathy?

Matthew 18:22 (ESV) ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Vs. 19 *Beloved*, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

The term "beloved" holds profound significance in the Bible, embodying concepts of love, favor, and deep connection. Understanding the biblical meaning of "beloved" can enrich our spiritual lives and enhance our relationships with God and others.

➤ **With this understanding of “beloved”, what can make it hard to step back and let God handle things?**

Romans 3:23 (ESV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Psalms 23:5 (ESV) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Deuteronomy 32:35, 41-43 (ESV) Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.’

⁴¹ if I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand takes hold on judgment, I will take vengeance on my adversaries and will repay those who hate me. ⁴² I will make my arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh— with the blood of the slain and the captives, from the long-haired heads of the enemy.’

⁴³ “Rejoice with him, O heavens; bow down to him, all gods, for he avenges the blood of his children and takes vengeance on his adversaries. He repays those who hate him and cleanses his people's land.”

Isaiah 54:17 (ESV) no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication from me, declares the Lord.”

Exodus 14:14 (ESV) The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

Vs. 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.”

➤ **What are some Biblical examples of this?**

Matthew 25:34-40 (ESV) ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

† God puts people in our path so we can show them who He is.

Romans 12:1-2 (ESV) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

→ Are we willing to ask God to bless those who have hurt us?

It's more than not taking action against them, not wanting revenge but honestly, whole-heartedly wanting to bless them

Vs.21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 5:41-42 (ESV) ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

Jesus leads by example

Luke 23:34 (ESV) And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments

It's about sanctification and it's God's responsibility to sanctify. Sanctification keeps it in the Hands of where it belongs... God's

When I put my identity in whatever the situation is, then I want to avenge it.... When I put my identity in God, I trust Him with the situation and relinquish the need to act according to my flesh

Throne Room:

What areas of Romans 12 does God want you to go deeper and align with Him more?

