

Sermon Reflections

Overcoming Opposition • Romans 12:14-21

Guest Teacher: Rich Ryan, former Pastor-Teacher of GBC

Summary: Apply Gospel humility to others, do good to those who oppose you and trust God with your reputation.

1. Respond to Others with a Gospel Centered Humility

a) Be Appropriate (vv. 14-15) b) Be Humble (v. 16)

- In verse 15 we are commanded to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep. Which one of these two commands is the most challenging for you and why?
- Read the following passages: Philippians 2:2-11, 1 Peter 3:8-9, Romans 12:3, and Proverbs 3:7. How do these Scriptures give further insight into the Romans text?
- What are some practical ways we can bless (i.e. “to speak well of”) people who persecute us? See in Acts 7:59-60 how a man responded to undeserved severe persecution. See Luke 23:34 to see how our Savior responded. Would these responses be appropriate for us to do when others persecute us? Why or why not?

2. Resist Retaliation and Instead Rest in God’s Providence when Wronged (vv. 17-21)

a) Be Honorable (v. 17) b) Be Peaceful (v. 18) c) Be Merciful (v. 19)
d) Be Generous (v. 20) e) Be Good (v. 21)

- For the qualities above (honorable, peaceful, merciful, generous, good): which ones come the most “natural” for you? Which ones are the most difficult for you? What are some practical ways to improve on the qualities that are difficult for you?
- Consider the following statement: “Feelings of revenge can be overcome by realizing that God will make all things right, and that He will visit His wrath on those who deserve it.” Do you believe this is a true statement? Why or why not? If you do not think it is a true statement, how would you revise it to be a true statement?
- Generally, do you consider yourself to be a peaceful person in your relationships? If not, what can you do to improve that quality in your life? If you have an existing relationship in which there is a lack of peace, how can you show the love of Christ to them?
- A parallel passage is the *Sermon on the Mount*, Matthew 5:38-48. Read this passage and compare to Romans 12:14-21. How do the words of Jesus amplify our text in Romans this week?