

GROWTH GROUPS

Discussion Questions for Romans 12:14-21 “Bearing the Fruit of Peace” Week of Mar. 8-11, 2020

1. Scripture memory: Memorize, meditate on and be ready to recite Romans 12:18.
2. Carefully read Romans 12:14-21.
3. Have you ever experienced persecution, ridicule, harassment, etc., because of your faith in Christ? What were the circumstances? How did you handle it?

4. How does the Apostle Paul teach that you should respond to persecution? (v. 14; also Matt. 5:10-11) What does that look like practically?

5. Sometimes conflict is completely unjustified or illogical. Read 1 Peter 2:19-25. What does Peter call “a gracious thing in the sight of God”? What do you learn from the way Jesus handled unjust suffering? How did he deal with it?

6. In verse 16, the Apostle Paul challenges us to “live in harmony with one another.”
 - a) Think of the musical analogy he uses. How would you explain Paul’s point? How does this look in life, especially in church life?

 - b) How do the other three phrases in verse 16 relate or contribute to this relational harmony?

7. God calls you, as a believer, to make every effort to “live peaceably with all” (v. 18).
 - a) What qualifications or caveats does he put on that statement? Why is relational peace not always possible?

 - b) How should you relate with or respond to someone who refuses to restore harmony with you? (v. 14, 20-21) The conflict with that person may cause you great inner turmoil and unrest. How can you respond in the way Paul teaches? What does this look like? How do you prepare your heart for this?

8. What did Jesus teach about this (relating with enemies) in Matt. 5:43-48? Why would this be an evidence of true conversion, a fruit of the Spirit? (Also Matt. 5:9)

9. a) As tempting as repaying evil for evil may be to you, why does Paul say you shouldn't do it? (vv. 17, 19) What should you do instead?

- b) Why is leaving evil to the wrath of God both sobering but also perhaps comforting?

10. What principles or thoughts had the most impact on you from the message on Sunday, Mar. 8th? How were you specifically challenged? What points of application did you take away from the message?

PRAY IN THE GROUP: Pray for the upcoming voting day. Pray that God would give wisdom and discernment to all who follow Christ. Pray also that those who vote at Cornerstone would sense the hospitality of the church and that God would draw some to conversion and discipleship at Cornerstone.