

**THE GOSPEL OF GRACE**  
**A Study in the Book of Romans**

**Sincere Love                  Romans 12:9–21**

*“Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.”* Romans 12:21

**Read Romans 12:9–13.**

1. The word for “sincere” in verse 9 literally means “without hypocrisy.” In what ways can love be hypocritical?
  
2. Compare verse 9 with Amos 5:14-15.
  - a. How do these verses say we should respond to evil? to good?
  
  - b. Why do you think they all mention both good and evil, rather than just one or the other?
  
  - c. How do your own attitudes and responses to good and evil need to change in light of these verses?
  
3. What do Jesus’ words in John 13:34–35 tell us about how and why we’re called to “be devoted to one another in [brotherly] love” (v. 10a)?
  
4. What do you think Paul means when he says we are to “honor one another above yourselves? (v. 10b)?” (📖 Rom. 12:3, Phil. 2:3)
  
5. What tends to keep you from being zealous as you serve the Lord? What can you do to guard against losing your spiritual fervor?
  
6. “Joyful in hope” – “patient in affliction” – “faithful in prayer” (v. 12): consider these as three strands of a rope. How does each strand help support the other two?
  
7. Why is showing hospitality important in a Christian’s life? (v. 13) (Gal. 6:10; Heb. 13:1-2)

**Read Romans 12:14–16.**

8. “Paul now shifts his focus from relationships with other believers, to the way that same love can be shown to non-Christians.”<sup>1</sup> How are Christians to respond to persecution? (v. 14; Lk. 6:27-28)
9. What does it look like to live in harmony with one another? (v. 16)

**Read Romans 12:14, 17–21.**

10. Paul gives four commands concerning how we’re not supposed to treat our enemies, as well as four commands concerning what to do instead. List these commands below:

**Do not:**


- v. 14
- v. 17
- vv. 19, 20
- v. 21

**Do instead:**

11. In light of Luke 6:32–36, why must Christians react differently to their enemies?
12. Between what you know of yourself and what you know of God, give at least three reasons why you are not qualified to take revenge against your enemies.
13. Think of a situation in your own life where you may be overcome by evil. What can you do to begin overcoming that situation with good?
14. What is the connection between Romans 12:1 and verses 9–21?
15. How will what you’ve learned from chapters 1-11 keep you from turning verses 9-21 into a new form of the law?
16. Turn verses 9–21 into a prayer for yourself today by praying through them.

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This study was adapted from a previous study on Romans, *From Guilt to Glory*, New Life Women’s Bible Study, 2001-2002.

 Denotes ‘for further study’.

1- The NIV Application Commentary: Romans; Copyright 2000 by Douglas J. Moo; pg. 400.