

Studies In Romans

(Romans 12:16-21)

1. Should Christians ever seek to be considered greater than one another?

No: *“Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits” (Romans 12:16).*

- Same mind toward one another (**Acts 4:32, Romans 15:5, I Corinthians 1:10, Philippians 1:27, and I Timothy 5:21**).
- Mind not the high things (**Psalms 131:1 and Matthew 18:1-4**), but associate with the humble (**Luke 14:11-14**; cf. **I Corinthians 15:33 and James 4:4**).
- Not with own wisdom (**Proverbs 3:5-7, Proverbs 26:12, and I Corinthians 3:18-19**).

2. Do we need to try and show ourselves to be honest people to the world?

Yes: *“Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men” (Romans 12:17).*

- Not repaying evil for evil (cf. **I Thessalonians 5:15 and I Peter 3:9**). We will discuss vengeance more when we discuss **verses 19-21**.
- Honesty in the sight of all men (**Luke 8:15, II Corinthians 8:21, Ephesians 4:25, Philippians 4:8, I Thessalonians 4:12, Titus 2:7-8, and I Peter 2:12**).

3. If it is possible, should we try to maintain peace with all men?

Yes: *“If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men” (Romans 12:18).*

- “If it be possible”, infers that there are times wherein it may not be possible (**John 16:33, Acts 17:1-10, and Acts 19:21-41**). In fact, we know it is NOT always possible (**Matthew 10:34-37**).
- Some err in thinking these verses teach that there is a time to compromise (**I Kings 18:17-40, Ephesians 6:13-17, I Timothy 6:12, and Jude 3-4**).
- Seek peace (**Psalms 34:14, Proverbs 12:20, Matthew 5:5, Matthew 5:9, II Corinthians 13:11, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:1-3, Colossians 3:15, I Thessalonians 5:13, II Timothy 2:22, and Hebrews 12:14**).

4. Should we be a vengeful people?

No: *“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord” (Romans 12:19).*

- Don't seek vengeance - such belongs to God (**Leviticus 19:18, Deuteronomy 32:35, Psalms 94:1, Proverbs 20:22, Proverbs 24:17-20, Proverbs 24:29, Nahum 1:2, and Hebrews 10:30-31**).

5. How should we treat our enemies?

Overcome their evil with your good: *“Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good”* (**Romans 12:20-21**).

- Thine enemy (**Exodus 23:4-5**, **Proverbs 25:21-22**, **Matthew 5:38-48**, and **Luke 6:27-28**; cf. **Philippians 3:17-19**).
- Don't be overcome of evil (**I Peter 3:9-17**).
- We have to be cautious here not to help in a way that causes us rot err (**Jeremiah 23:14** and **II Thessalonians 3:10**).