

Message Reflections
May 23, 2021

The Christian life is a very demanding life. Even with our new nature and the power of the indwelling Spirit of God, we find ourselves swimming upstream against the current of this world.

Paul concludes Romans 12 with some difficult truths about Christ-like love. The Roman church to whom Paul was writing was no stranger to persecution. So, how do Christ followers get along with their enemies? In this passage, Paul gives four principles for getting along with enemies: 1) blessing; 2) humility; 3) trust; and 4) doing good.

Read: Romans 12:14-21

Reflect:

- How did Jesus model this concept of overcoming evil with good in His life? In His death?
- What person(s) or circumstances in your life (past or present) have you had the greatest difficulty in “blessing” as defined in this passage?

Read Ephesians 4:32: **“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”**

- How does understanding this verse help in forgiving someone who has hurt you?
- What are some practical ways that you can bless those who have been your enemies?

The gospel sends us into the world to love people as we have been loved, which is to love people who often make themselves difficult to love. Pray for a transformed mind so that you can be an instrument of peace to those inside and outside of the church.