




# ROMANS: A FIRM FOUNDATION


Fulfilling the Great Commandment

Romans 12:9-21




<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:37–40



<sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.



<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.



# LIFE IN COMMUNITY

## 1. Love and honor

<sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

# LIFE IN COMMUNITY

## 2. Demonstrate zeal and joy

<sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

## 3. Share with them

<sup>13</sup> Share with God's people who are in need.

## LIFE IN COMMUNITY

4. Mourn and weep with them

<sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

5. Live in harmony

<sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.




# LIFE WITH CONFLICT





<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary:



“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his  
head.”

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil  
with good.



# LIFE WITH CONFLICT

## 1. Bless when others curse

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

# LIFE WITH CONFLICT

## 2. Let God be your bill collector

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

## LIFE WITH CONFLICT

3. Serve the ones you would like to resist.

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



## TO GO

- How does our community life compare to the paradigm that Paul outlines?
- How much are you willing to sacrifice for the sake of community?
- How do you respond to opposition or criticism?
- How does the response that Paul advocates differ from the cultural norms of our day?