

Outside the Box Christianity

"Outside the Box Action"

Romans 12:14-21

Sermon Series Summary

Have you ever wanted to take your faith to the next level? Have you ever wanted to grow more in faithfulness in the New Year than the year before? If you are an individual that has a desire to continue to grow as a Christian then this series has so much to teach you as you learn about Paul's recipe for success also known as "Christianity Outside the Box." Join us in growing in faithfulness to the Lord as we study through Romans 12 together.

Series Theme Passage

Romans 12:1 – I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Main Text

Romans 12:14-21 (ESV) – ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the

wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Big Idea – As a Christian You Are Called to Radical Righteousness and Unconditional Love

The Christian's Call to Action

Lesson #1 - You Are Called to Conquer Evil in Your Life Through Obedience to the Lord

Romans 12:21 (ESV) - Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

■ **Key Point** – The first lesson is the "Big Idea" of this section of Romans 12 as we learn the importance of staying the course of faithfulness and not allowing ourselves to be overcome with evil. The solution is that our victory is found through obedience to the Lord and His Word.

Point #2 – You Are Called to Bless Your Enemies and Pray for Your Persecutors

Romans 12:14-15 (ESV) – ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

■ **Key Point** – The second lesson that we examine is found in verses 14-15. It is here where we learn the principle of blessing your enemies and praying for those who persecute which is opposite of the desire of the flesh.

Point #3 - You Are Called to Humble Yourself Before the Lord and Live in Pursuit of His Will

Romans 12:16 (ESV) **–** ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

■ **Key Point** – The third lesson that we examine is discovered in verse 16 as we look to the character trait of humility. As Christians, the right action flows from the fruit of humility where your pride is replaced by God's love for Him and others.

Point #4 - You Are Called to Trust the Lord and Desire Righteousness Over Revenge

Romans 12:17-20 (ESV) – ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

■ **Key Point** – The final lesson that we examine deals with your love for the Lord overcoming your desire for revenge. Every individual will face times of anger, frustration, and fleeting thoughts of revenge but as a Christian, we must turn these moments over to the Lord and trust in Him and His authority.

Memory Verse

Romans 12:21 (ESV) – Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Challenge:

Remind yourself that your responsibility, before the Lord, is to consistently apply the divine principles and truths you have discovered in the presentation of the Word of God. As you reflect on this message, put your faith into action and ask yourself this question,

• How is God calling you to get a better "G.R.I.P." on your calling today?