

Romans 12:17-21
“*Inside & Outside*”

~ INTRO. ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I’ve titled today’s message: “*Inside & Outside*” (Part #2)

THE BIG IDEA...

- In these verses is: *Living like a Christian.*

CHRISTIANITY IS A WAY OF LIVING...

- **Not** just a way of believing.
 - Our beliefs are tied to actions, which are lived out (faith).

LAST TIME...

- We discovered how to *live like a Christians...*
 - Toward people **INSIDE** the family of faith.

TODAY...

- We discover how to *live like a Christians...*
 - Toward people **OUTSIDE** the family of faith.

~ STUDY ~

REMEMBER...

- Paul’s teaching the church.
 - It’s not that we have all this stuff down.
 - We’re learning how to live as Christians.

IDEA #1 – OVERCOMING OPPOSITION: (v.17)

LIVING LIKE A CHRISTIAN...

- Toward those outside the family of faith...
 - Must be lived intentionally.

(Proverbs 3:3-4) NLT

- (v.3) *loyalty & kindness* are qualities God wants us to live out.

SIDE NOTE:

Dr. Albert Mohler...

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- “*In a Post-Christian society...*
 - Kindness is the first social-grace to disappear.”
- Crude, vulgar, & unpleasantness spreads thru public interactions...
 - When the Christian ethic is abandoned.

POINT BEING:

- Our Christian influence makes a tangible difference.
- Don’t discount God’s power in *kindness*.

(Proverbs 3:4) Two benefits:

- 1) *Favor*
- 2) *A good reputation*

(Proverbs 22:1) NLT

(v.17b) – **HERE’S THE INSTRUCTION:**

- Let people **SEE** our good works and they will glorify God.
 - 1) (Matt. 5:16) NKJV **Jesus said...**
 - The way we live publicly has an impact.
 - 2) (Titus 2:7-8) NKJV **Paul said...**
 - Our lives are a demonstration of good works.
 - 3) (1 Peter 2:12) NLT **Peter said...**
 - Our conduct is to be honorable among people.

HERE’S THE TAKE AWAY:

- Character is king when Overcoming Opposition!

IDEA #2 – DO YOUR PART: (v.18)

1st – God has given us Holy Spirit power to do good (Acts 1:8) NLT.

2nd – “*If it is possible...*” (v.18)

- Meaning it’s NOT always possible to live peaceably with people.

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(Proverbs 29:9) NKJV

(Proverbs 29:27) NKJV

HERE’S THE POINT:

ONCE YOU’VE DONE YOUR PART...

- And if the situation fails...
 - You’re to stand back and let God handle it.

IDEA #3 – GOD HAS YOUR BACK: (vv.19-21)

(v.19) Is a partial quote from (Deut. 32:35) NKJV

- Indicating God watches over His people.

*Used by Jonathan Edwards during the 1st Great Awakening (1741).

BUT... PAUL TAKES IT FURTHER IN (v.20)...

- By quoting (Proverbs 25:21-22) NKJV.

The lesson Paul is giving...

- Is how to conduct our lives OUTSIDE the family of faith.

Examples:

1) If your enemy is *Hungry*...

- Weakness
- Emptiness
- Lacking

2) If your enemy is *Thirsty*...

- No purpose
- Questioning existence
- No fulfillment

TURN TO (James 2:14-20) NLT

- Three applications:
 - 1) Faith engages needs (vv.14-16)

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- 2) Faith is expressed in outward actions (v.17)
- 3) Faith is prominent in our life (v.18)

~ *IN CLOSING* ~

(John 6:35) NKJV

*“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger,
and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”*