



## **ROMANS 12:14-21**

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**PRAY:** Thank God for His love, for His mercy, and for His justice, on your behalf as well as others'.

**REST:** Reflect on any conflict of your last week, as well as any experiences of peace.

**READ:** Through the section once. As you read again, think about how these verses build on those immediately before them—consider what is new and how it relates to what has already been written. Read it again and consider how this section practically applies the ideas of God's faithfulness and our faithlessness.

*Consider & Respond to these questions:*

How can you know God more in these verses?

What do they say about who you are?

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### QUESTIONS FROM SUNDAY

*Reflecting on this Sunday's teaching, respond to these questions:*

When conflict occurs, we can see it as either the result of greater division, or a chance for greater intimacy, or somewhere in between. When thinking in terms of this spectrum, where would you say your response to conflict places you? Do you want to move from that position? How can you accomplish that?

Think through any relationships you have right now that are in a state of tension and discuss how you can move toward reconciliation while still keeping proper boundaries. What must the other party do to move toward reconciliation?

What areas of life do you find yourself becoming angry or vengeful? It could be driving in traffic with road rage, fighting with your co-workers or spouse, becoming enraged at politics, etc. What can you do to “overcome evil with good” in those situations? Give practical suggestions.

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### FOR FURTHER STUDY

God is love. And He is for unity. He desires peace for His people and peace is only found in trusting Him. These facts are inescapable in His Word. And yet so often we seek peace anywhere but God, we do not trust Him, we find reasons for disunity and separation from Him and one another, and we neither live as those who are loved or loving. Perhaps this is because this peace and unity—God's love—is found in sacrifice. Jesus' sacrificed His life on our behalf, and now we sacrifice ourselves for one another, as our worshipful response to God's grace in Jesus. We chafe against God's way of justice and grace. But if we would really know Him, we would trust Him instead, and find peace in trust. When we see things with His perspective, we love as He does and our sacrifice is a joy—we can defer justice to God because we know He alone is trustworthy and just. We do not want retribution for our enemies, but instead repentance, we want grace for them because we know that is what He wants and what He has given to us. Let us not be like Jonah, disappointed in God's mercy toward others. Let us instead desire to love those, even who hate us, as we can only with the love God gives, which He has given to us so abundantly.

**Harmony/Peaceableness:** Genesis 13:8; Proverbs 15:18, 16:14; Ecclesiastes 10:4; Matthew 5:23-25; Mark 9:50; Romans 14:19, 15:5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 1:7, 2:2, 3:15-16, 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15; Hebrews 12:14; James 3:17

**Unity:** Psalm 133:1; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Matthew 18:15-20; Romans 15:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:9-10, 12:21-26; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Ephesians 4:1-7; Philippians 1:27-28; Colossians 2:1-7; 1 Peter 3:8-13

*As you read, some questions to think about and respond to are:*

What does peace, with God and others, look like, according to the Word? Is this how you think about peace?

How would it look for you to live in unity with God and with others? What can be done, practically, this week for you to dwell in greater unity?

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**TO MEMORIZE: ROMANS 12:18**

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