



*RENEWED MIND,
RENEWED RELATIONSHIPS*
Life Group Study -- Week of November 24, 2019

Memorize.

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21

Open. What would people close to you, for example in your family, your church or your Life Group, say about how easy or difficult it is to show you love?

Study. Read Romans 12:17-21.

If you had the opportunity to hear Pastor Jim's message on Sunday, what stood out to you personally? What questions did it raise for you, if any?

Several times in verses 17-21, Paul uses the word, "Do not..." What does Paul tell us *not* to do? What general themes do you see?

Paul follows each use of the negative "*Do not...*" with a positive instruction as to what we are to do instead. What specifically is on that list?

In view of these instructions, what insights or principle can we derive from this passage for how we are to deal with those who might otherwise be our enemies?

How do the two conditional phrases in verse 18 inform your understanding of your personal responsibility in the task of peacemaking? What encouragement do they provide for understanding the actual dynamics in some relationships?

It is possible to choose an external truce with an enemy (or generally someone who has done you wrong) while not being at peace toward that person internally. What are some means by which we opt for external peace at the expense of the internal? Why do we do that? How does it affect us in the long term?

What is required for real relational reconciliation "so far as it depends on you," even if/when your enemy opts out?

Given the general theme of Paul's teaching here, what do you think he means by "heaping burning coals on his head"?

- a. Hasta la vista, baby!
- b. Creating the conditions for God to punish them more severely.
- c. Contribute to conditions that God may use to bring them to repentance.

It is both easy and natural to be "overcome by evil" (verse 21). We simply allow the world to progressively squeeze us into its mold (verse 2). Think of someone who has done you evil, whether past or present. How, in the most practical terms, might implementing the principles Paul lays down in this passage help you to overcome that evil with good?

What questions or dilemmas are you left with at the close of this discussion? How do you want to respond to what we have discussed?

You're praying. Now is the time to share the gospel with your

