

DISCUSSION FOCUS

Read (Primary Text): Romans 12:1-21

MAIN IDEA: God's grace enables us to overcome evil with good.

OBSERVE

Consider having your group discuss some of the points from Sunday's sermon. This guide will focus on the shape of a Godly life in Romans 12 which flows from the redemptive plan of God in chapters 1-11.

What is pleasing to God? *Living sacrificial lives before him. Transformed minds that discern his will.*

In verse 2, Paul writes to not be conformed to this world but to have their minds transformed. How does he describe this in verses 3-8? What words or attitudes stand out to you?

In the entirety of this passage, Paul is calling his readers to resist and commit (e.g. not conformed to the world, transformed by renewing your mind...let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil). In what ways do verses 9-21 further detail this?

INTERPRET

From your previous reading, Sunday's sermon, and understanding, in what ways does Paul's discussion of God's redemptive plan in Romans 1-11 enable us to keep the commands mentioned in chapter 12? *God has lavished grace on us through the work of Jesus. He has brought us to life from death in Adam (Romans 5); he has freed us from condemnation and given us the Spirit (Romans 8). All enables us to live a godly life that is transforming our minds.*

In what ways do the attitudes or behaviors mentioned in this passage help others to know Christ? *It shows submission to God from a pure heart. It points to a reality beyond this world and its systems. It helps others to see and experience the love of Christ.*

RESPOND

In what ways do you fall short of following what this passage commands?

How have you seen the Lord's grace work to strengthen and sustain you in pursuing holiness?

APPLY

This passage is focused both on individual obedience and that of the church. How have you been helped by other examples? How can you, by your example, help or encourage others?

Romans 12 makes it clear that we are to detest and flee evil. When has someone helped you see and overcome evil in your life?