

p. 1

Proper 17A: Romans 12:9-21

8/27/20

I Intro — all we Really Need to Know
we Learned in Kindergarten

(see examples on printout)

II. We've forgotten what we learned in Kindergarten:

A. Cancel culture

B. Unfriending — BLM supporters
Vote for Trump

C. Talking past each other

"sick satisfaction" { D. Ad hominem attacks (assume worst)

E. No nuance

III. We in Church need a reminder that we're different:

Rom 12:2 — not conforming

— transformed & transforming

SC- 8th Commandment

v. 10 - "Outdo one another in showing honor" (v. 10b)

(Prov. 18:19) (instead of race to the toilet)

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them" (v. 14).

(echoes of Jesus' sermon on Mount

v. 16) "Never be wise in your own sight!"

(Prov. 12:15)

(have humility to consider you may be wrong and reconsider your bias, assumptions, and sources)

v. 18) "If possible, so ~~far~~ far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

(Prov. 15:1)

// Blessed are the peacemakers

v. 21) "Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good."

IV Jesus was silent ~~at trial~~ at trial

"He opened not his mouth" (Isa. 53:7)

"no deceit in his mouth" (Isa. 53:9)

"But Jesus remained silent" (Mt. 26:63)

V. Jesus prayed on the cross.

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34)

"Be constant in prayer" (Ro 12:12).

"Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips" (Ps. 141:3).

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock & my Redeemer" (Ps. 19:14)

ROMANS 12:9-21

(12:9) Love [is] genuine.¹ Hating² evil, clinging³ to good, (10) devoted⁴ to one another in brotherly love, **outdoing⁵ one another in honor**, (11) not lazy⁶ in zeal, being fervent⁷ in the Spirit, serving the Lord, (12) rejoicing in hope, enduring tribulation, **keeping busy⁸ in prayer**, (13) sharing⁹ in the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality.¹⁰ (14) **Bless¹¹ the ones [who] persecute [you]—bless and do not curse.**¹² (15) Rejoice with rejoicing [ones], weep with weeping [ones]. (16) Thinking [beloved]¹³ the same [thing] to one another, not thinking the high [things], but rather associating¹⁴ with the humble. **Do not become wise unto yourselves.** (17) Repaying no one evil against evil, thinking beforehand noble [thoughts] before all people. (18) **If possible it [is] from you, with all people be at peace.** (19) Do not mete out justice¹⁵ for your own [benefit], beloved, but rather give place to the wrath, for it has been written: “*I myself will judge, I myself shall repay,*” says [the] Lord.¹⁶ (20) But “*if your enemy hungers, feed¹⁷ him. If he thirsts, give him drink. For in this [way] you are making charcoals¹⁸ of fire to pile up¹⁹ on his head.*”²⁰ (21) **Do not be conquered by the bad but rather conquer the bad by means of the good.**

¹ BDAG, s.v. ἀνυπόκριτος, “pert. to being without pretense, *genuine, sincere*, lit. ‘without play-acting.’”

² Gingrich, s.v. ἀποστνγέω, “hate, abhor.”

Grammatical Note: Although most English versions translate these forms as imperatives, most of the forms in verse 9 and following are present active participles or adjectives. The main verb does not occur until later.

³ Gingrich, s.v. κολλάω, “join closely together, unite; pass. cling.”

⁴ Gingrich, s.v. φιλόστοργος, “adj. loving dearly, devoted.”

⁵ Gingrich, s.v. προηγέομαι, “go before; in Ro 12:10 outdo or consider better, esteem more highly.”

⁶ Gingrich, s.v. ὀκνηρός, “idle, lazy, indolent.”

⁷ Gingrich, s.v. ζέω, “boil, seethe fig... with burning zeal.”

⁸ BDAG, s.v. προσκαρτερέω, 2, “to persist in someth. – busy oneself with, be busily engaged in, be devoted to, w. dat. of thing”; 1, “to stick by or close at hand.”

⁹ The verb here is related to the noun *koinonia*, which means “fellowship” or “participation.”

¹⁰ BDAG, s.v. φιλοξενία, “hospitality.” This word only occurs here and in Heb. 13:2: “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

¹¹ *Grammatical Note:* This is the first occurrence of a main verb (indicative mood) instead of participles.

¹² BDAG, s.v. καταράσθαι, “to curse, execrate.” This verb only occurs 5 times in NT but 28 times in LXX.

¹³ *Textual Note:* One manuscript adds *agapētoi*, “beloved.”

¹⁴ BDAG, s.v. συναπάγω, 3, “to join the company of others, *associate with*”; 1, “to cause someone in conjunction with others to go astray in belief, *lead away with*.”

¹⁵ BDAG, s.v. ἐκδικέω, 2, “to inflict appropriate penalty for wrong done (of special significance in an honor/shame-oriented society) punish, take vengeance for.”

¹⁶ This is a quotation of Deut. 32:35: “Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.”

¹⁷ BDAG, s.v. ψωμίζω, 1, “to cause someone to eat, *to feed*.”

¹⁸ BDAG, s.v. ἀνθραξ, ἀκος, “charcoal only in the proverb.”

¹⁹ BDAG, s.v. σωρεύω, 1, “to amass by setting one thing atop another, heap/pile up.”

²⁰ This is a quotation of Prov. 25:21-22: “If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.”

Robert Fulghum's book, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, contains the follow maxims:

"ALL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW about how to live and what to do and how to be I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate-school mountain, but there in the sandpile at Sunday School. These are the things I learned:

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don't hit people.

Put things back where you found them.

Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that aren't yours.

Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.

Wash your hands before you eat.

Flush.

Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.

Live a balanced life—learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap every afternoon.

When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.

Wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup—they all die. So do we.

And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned—the biggest word of all—LOOK."³⁹

³⁹ <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/56955/all-i-really-need-to-know-i-learned-in-kindergarten-by-robert-fulghum/9780345466396/excerpt>