

Paul's Letter to the
Romans

Ch. 12:15-16



LET US:

1. Be Sympathetic/Empathetic
2. Be Impartial



(v. 15)

(v. 16)

ROMANS 12:9-14

- 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.
- 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;
- 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
- 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,
- 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.
- 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- 14 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.



ROMANS 12:15

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.



SYMPATHY AND EMPATHY

Sympathy is feeling compassion, sorrow, or pity for the hardships that another person encounters.

Empathy is putting yourself in the shoes of another.



ROMANS 12:15

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.



- ✓ In the context of the church; **What happens to one—happens to all.**
- ✓ When this works—your joys are MORE joyful and your sorrows LESS sorrowful.

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

“At first thought, that principle would seem easy to follow [rejoice with those who rejoice]. But when another person’s blessing and happiness are at our expense, or when their favored circumstances or notable accomplishments make ours seem barren and dull, the flesh does not lead us to rejoice but tempts us to resent.”*



1 CORINTHIANS 12:26



“And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

ROMANS 12:16



16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

JAMES 1:1-4, 9



“My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, “You sit here in a good place,” and you say to the poor man, “You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,” have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?.....[9] But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”

ROMANS 12:16



16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

LUKE 14:7-11

“And He began speaking a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor at the table, saying to them, “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this man,’ and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place. “But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

The Lesson: Don't seek to be treated with greater honor than others around you and don't think that you are WORTHY of greater honor than others. Be humble.



LUKE 14:12-14

“And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. “But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The Lesson: Don't be a Christian snob—associate with the lowly and those less fortunate.



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