



A Transformed Life:
Christian Virtue on Display
Sunday, February 13, 2022

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. – Rom. 12:14 – 18

*Your patient has become humble; have you drawn his attention to this fact? All virtues are less formidable to us once the man is aware that he has them, but this is especially true of humility.
- C.S. Lewis*

Introduction:

In Romans 12 the Apostle Paul is describing the transformed life renewed by the Holy Spirit. In verses 1 – 13 he teaches about the inner life of the Church, and our relationships with one another. But in verses 14 – 21 he widens the aperture to include our relationships with people in the world. Christian virtue is put on display, and we are confronted with some of the hardest teaching in the entire letter! Let's see how we measure up...

Sermon Outline: Christian Virtue on Display

- i. Blessing instead of Cursing (vs. 14)
- ii. Empathy instead of Indifference (vs. 15)
- iii. Humility instead of High-Mindedness (vs. 16)
- iv. Peaceful instead of Vengeful (vs. 17 – 18)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- What makes these four areas of 'virtue over vice' radical? Which verse most challenges you?
- Can you think of a recent example in your life when you had to put one of them into practice?
- Will some of these virtues be shared about you by those who give a eulogy at your funeral?