

20

Do not repay anyone evil for evil.

What does this mean?

Why are we so keen to?

Why shouldn't we?

21

Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

What does Paul mean by this? What does he want you to do?

Doesn't this contradict Jesus teaching about acting in secret? Matthew 6:4

Are there dangers in this?

When is it not possible?

22

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

What does it mean to live at peace?

How do you achieve this?

When doesn't it depend on you?

What should you do when it does not depend on you?

23

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written:

"It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

When do you want to take revenge?

Why shouldn't you?

What is the promise in this verse?

Does this change the way you see conflict?

24

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

What should you do?

Why?

What does 'burning coals' mean?

25

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

What does it mean to be overcome by evil?

Evil what?

How do you overcome evil with good?

Which of these do you find most challenging?

Which of these do you think is the hardest?

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25 Steps

Read Romans 12:9-21

Paul gets to the point in most of his letters, usually towards the end, where he changes style and gives a list of instructions. eg 1 Thessalonians 5 12-27, Colossians 4:4-6. This is one of those passages.

In it Paul gives a list of 25 things that we as Christians need to know and do, or not do. Some are related; others are not. Each has some questions to help with understanding. But your big job is to ask.

What will this look like in my life?

So if Paul says love must be sincere, what will that look like in my life?

Who am I called to love?

How will this love show itself?

How will I know if my love is sincere?

You might want to think of any other scriptures that say similar things.

1

Love must be sincere.

What is sincere love?

What is insincere love?

Why "must"?

2

Hate what is evil;

For example?

In others or in yourself?

3

Cling to what is good.

Why cling?

What kind of good?



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4

Be devoted to one another in love.

How strong a word is devoted?
Why do you think Paul uses it?
Who is the one another

5

Honour one another above yourselves.

How?
Physically or in your head?
What would the opposite be?
Does this mean devaluing yourself?

6

Never be lacking in zeal,

What is Zeal?
What should you be zealous for?
What should you not be zealous for?

7

Keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.

What is 'spiritual fervour'?
How do you serve the Lord?
Why does Paul say 'keep'? What does this imply?

8

Be joyful in hope,

What is joyful?
Why in hope? What does this imply?
What are we hoping for?

9

Patient in affliction,

What does it mean to be patient in affliction?
What kind of affliction?
Why should we be patient?

10

Faithful in prayer.

What does this mean?
What does faithful imply in connection to prayer?
Praying about what?

11

Share with the Lord's people who are in need.

What does this mean?
What kind of need?

12

Practice hospitality.

What is hospitality?
Who do you need to show hospitably to?

13

Bless those who persecute you;

What does 'persecute' look like for us?
What did it look like for them?
Who will you bless them?

14

Bless and do not curse.

When might you want to curse?
Why do you think Paul emphasises blessings?

15

Rejoice with those who rejoice;

Explain.
Do we always rejoice with those who rejoice?
What do we sometimes do instead?

16

Mourn with those who mourn.

What does this mean?
Who will you do this with?
Why do you need to do this?
How does this relate to empathising

17

Live in harmony with one another.

Who is one another?
What does it mean to live in harmony?
Why do you think Paul needs to say this?

18

Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.

Explain.
Define low position. Who might this be?
Inside or outside of the Church?

19

Do not think you are superior.

To whom?
Why might you think you are superior?
Why might you be wrong?