Oakland International Fellowship Paul J. Bucknell

Principles of Christian Growth

**Romans 12:9-21 Handout**

Paul provides 25 quick, tweetable suggestions on how a righteous man or woman of God, is to live out their lives. People are made in the image of God, and the way we respond to God and treat others in daily events are important. Below each of the following exhortations is a common objection to carrying out that certain exhortation, revealing our ‘counter’ thoughts and values. The first four are done for you. Complete the rest!

1. Let love be without hypocrisy. (Romans 12:9)

Objection: “But what if I don’t really love them?"

1. Abhor what is evil. (Romans 12:9 )

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| **Romans 12** |
| 12:1-2: Dedication to God |
| 12:3-8: Spiritual gifts |
| 12:9-21: 25 Exhortations |

Objection: “But then I can't watch my programs!"

1. Cling to what is good. (Romans 12:9)

Objection: “But I only sometimes meet with God and have devotions.”

1. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. (Romans 12:10)

Objection: “But can’t I just be nice?"

1. Give preference to one another in honor. (Romans 12:10 )

Objection:

1. Not lagging behind in diligence. (Romans 12:11)

Objection:

1. Fervent in spirit. (Romans 12:11)

Objection:

1. Serving the Lord. (Romans 12:11)

Objection:

1. Rejoicing in hope. (Romans 12:12)

Objection:

1. Persevering in tribulation. (Romans 12:12)

Objection:

1. Devoted to prayer. (Romans 12:12)

Objection:

1. Contributing to the needs of the saints. (Romans 12:13)

Objection:

1. Practicing hospitality. (Romans 12:13)

Objection:

1. Bless those who persecute you. Bless and curse not. (Romans 12:14)

Objection:

1. Rejoice with those who rejoice. (Romans 12:15)

Objection:

1. Weep with those who weep. (Romans 12:15)

Objection:

1. Be of the same mind toward one another. (Romans 12:16)

Objection:

1. Do not be haughty in mind but associate with the lowly. (Romans 12:16)

Objection:

1. Do not be wise in your estimation. (Romans 12:16)

Objection:

1. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. (Romans 12:17)

Objection:

1. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. (Romans 12:17)

Objection:

1. As far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. (Romans 12:18)

Objection:

1. Never take your own revenge, but leave room for the wrath of God… (Romans 12:19)

Objection:

1. If your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink.… (Romans 12:20)

Objection:

1. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21)

Objection:

Summary

By touching on many aspects of our lives, Paul provides a powerful portrait of the Christian’s life. Continuing back to the end of Romans 5, Paul relates what should characterize Christian living, or what it means for Christ to live through His people right now on earth.

Discussion questions

1. Would you consider the above exhortations laws? Why or why not?
2. If a person could do all these things, does it make a person a Christian. Explain.
3. Share one or more items from above and share how you need to improve the way you live out your life.