

POWER FOR SUCCESSFUL LIVING



A STUDY OF ROMANS

#16: TRANSFORMING YOUR RELATIONSHIPS—11:1-21

JIM HINTON

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIPS TO MY FAITH

To God, relationship is of high importance and value. The reason why He created us was so that He could enjoy a relationship with us and we a relationship with Him. It's also that very reason that God redeems us to Himself. The only times God isn't happy is when loneliness and separation happen. When He looked at Adam and saw that He was without a companion, He said that "it's not good for man to be alone." (Genesis 2:18) It's not good that we should be alone or alienated from relationships.

Patrick Mabilog

1. God in His nature is a relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, in our likeness..."

Genesis 1:26 (GWT)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14 (NLT)

2. God wants to have a relationship with His people

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26 (NLT)

3. God designed us to have good relationships with others

If anyone boasts, "I love God," and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won't love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can't see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both.

1 John 4:20-21 (MSG)

II. WAYS I CAN TRANSFORM MY RELATIONSHIPS FOR GOOD –ROMANS 12:1-21

1. I must transform my relationship with God (v.1-2)

- **By choosing to give myself completely to Him (v.1)**
- **By allowing Him to radically change my thinking and behavior (v.2)**

2. I must transform my relationships with other believers (v.3-16)

- **By honestly assessing my own strengths and weaknesses (v.3)**
- **By faithfully using my gifts to strengthen the Body of Christ (v.4-16)**

I do that by...

⇒ **Living generously (v.4-8)**

⇒ **Living differently (v.9-16)**

3. I must transform my relationship with my enemies (v.17-21)

- **Don't:**

⇒ **Repay evil for evil**

⇒ **Take revenge**

The best revenge is not to be like your enemy.

Marcus Aurelius, Meditations

- **Do:**

⇒ **Be honorable**

⇒ **Live at peace with everyone**

⇒ **Allow God to make things right**

⇒ **Be kind to those who wrong me**

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

Martin Luther King, Jr.