

Comments About Romans 12:16

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a discussion about the words of the apostle Paul found in Romans 12. It is my perspective that Paul's writings in chapters 1-11 could be classified more as comments about doctrine and spiritual concepts, whereas the words in chapter 12 can be viewed more as Christian-living topics.

Last week, we discussed Romans 12:15. This article will discuss Romans 12:16.

Positive words

Notice what Paul wrote in Romans 12:16.

Romans 12:16—"Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion."

Avoid the pitfall of pride

Here are some verses that discuss avoiding the pitfall of pride.

Proverbs 8:13—"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate."

Proverbs 13:10—"By pride comes nothing but strife, but with the well-advised is wisdom."

Proverbs 16:18—"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Romans 11:25—"For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."

Reflect a humble spirit

Here are some verses that discuss reflecting a humble spirit.

Proverbs 3:34—"Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble."

Proverbs 11:2—"When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom."

Proverbs 16:19—"Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud."

Proverbs 29:23—"A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor."

Matthew 18:4—"Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 23:12—"And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Philippians 2:5-8—"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

Preference to one another

Before we notice some verses about giving preference toward other people, let's acknowledge the clear teaching that a disciple should have self-respect.

Matthew 22:39—"And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "

It is from a foundation of self-respect that true love can flow from you to another person.

If a person does not respect himself, he will not respect others. If a person belittles himself, he will have a tendency to belittle others.

Philippians 2:1-4—"Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."