

BLESS don't CURSE ~ Romans 12:14-16

→Scripture Reading Rom. 12:9-16

INTRODUCTION

Acts 6:7 (NIV) So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 7:55-56 (NIV) But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ Look, he said, I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

Bless those who PERSECUTE you ~ Romans 12:14

¹⁴ **Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.** ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁴ ...as for those who try to make your life a misery, BLESS them. Don't CURSE, BLESS. (JBP)

IMPLICATIONS

Luke 6:27-28 (NLT) But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.

Matthew 5:44-45 (NLT) But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.

When we are Insulted or Treated Badly... HNTC

- we are to PRAY FOR those people who have attacked us
- we are to treat them KINDLY even with sympathy
- we are to FORGIVE them even when they have hurt us Deeply

We are never more like Jesus than when we treat people BETTER than they deserve. Ingram

¹⁴ ...as for those who try to make your life a misery, BLESS them. Don't CURSE, BLESS. (JBP)

Rejoice AND Mourn ~ Romans 12:15

¹⁴ **Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.** ¹⁵ **Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.** ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Our tendency is to **be jealous** when others REJOICE, and to **pass by** when they MOURN. God's way is to **Enter into** the **joys** and **sorrows** of those around us. BBC

¹⁵ **SHARE** the happiness of those who are happy, the sorrow of those who are sad. (JBP)

It is Impossible to do this if we do NOT have a RELATIONSHIP with people. Hughes

IMPLICATIONS

¹⁵ **SHARE** the happiness of those who are happy, the sorrow of those who are sad. (JBP)

Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV) I know what it is to be in NEED, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being CONTENT in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can DO everything through Him who gives me strength.

¹³ I can DO everything through HIM who gives me strength.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NLT) All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of ALL comfort. ⁴ He comforts us in ALL our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

Live in HARMONY ~ Romans 12:16

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! (NLT)

IMPLICATIONS

¹⁶ Live in HARMONY with one another. Do not be PROUD, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be CONCEITED.

Feelings of SUPERIORITY are neither realistic nor appropriate for those who owe ALL to God's grace. Constable

Kneeling at the FOOT of the CROSS - we are ALL the same - Forgiven Sinners

1 Peter 5:5 (HCS) ...And ALL of you clothe yourselves with HUMILITY toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

HOW do we Live in HARMONY?

- stay FOCUSED on Christ
- stay COMMITTED to His WORD
- handle PROBLEMS Biblically
- go back to the CROSS Regularly
- PRAY for Harmony and UNITY

TAKE AWAY ??

John 15:18, 20 (NLT) ¹⁸ If the world HATES you, remember that it HATED ME first....

²⁰ Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you...

John 16:1-2 (NLT) ¹ I have told you these things SO THAT you won't abandon your faith. ² For you WILL be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God.

John 16:33 (NLT) I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here ON EARTH you will have MANY trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

²⁴ ...It is the Lord Christ you are SERVING.