

SERIES	UNTANGLED Pt. 4
BIBLE	Romans 12; Psalm 26
TITLE/TOPIC	Do Your Part and Trust God with the Rest
OVERVIEW	We all have had difficult and messy relationships in our lives that have often brought great anxiety and pain into our lives. Many times, how we have handled those relationships or responded to things that have been said or done to us has left a lot of brokenness and hurt in their wake. How we respond to and treat people that we interact with not only within the church but outside those walls is very important and matters to God. This message focuses on
SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN	<p>The Apostle Paul lays out a clear path of how we should respond and live towards people who many times can mistreat us or even people we would humanly consider our enemies. This can be seen in the way that different people responded to mistreatment. If we respond with the pattern that the Apostle Paul lays out, we can begin to live a life in such a way that it untangles the messiness of our relationships that we often have help create in the way that we have lived our lives and interacted with others. Let's take a look at that pattern!</p> <p>STEPS YOU CAN TAKE THAT WILL UNTANGLE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS AND HELP YOU CULTIVATE THEM GOD'S WAY:</p> <p>1. IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY TOWARD YOU, WORSHIP GOD IN THE WAY YOU LIVE OUT YOUR LIFE, NOT THE WORLDLY WAY BUT IN THE CENTER OF GOD'S WILL.</p> <p>Romans 12:1-21</p> <p><i>Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.</i></p> <p><i>Humble Service in the Body of Christ</i></p> <p>2. HAVE A PROPER PERSPECTIVE OF YOURSELF AND KNOW THAT YOU NEED OTHERS IN YOUR LIFE.</p> <p><i>³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^{al} faith; ⁷if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it</i></p>

is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,^[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

3. OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS MUST BE SINCERE AND SHOULD ALWAYS FLOW FOR THE GOOD AND BLESSING OF OTHERS

Love in Action

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

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.^[c] Do not be conceited.

4. IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS, WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DOING OUR PART AND MUST LEAVE THE OUTCOME TO GOD AS WE KEEP LOVING PEOPLE THE WAY THAT GOD DOES.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ 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,"^[d] says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary:

"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."^[e]

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

5. A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE FROM DAVID'S LIFE:

Psalm 26

Vindicate me, Lord,
for I have led a blameless life;
I have trusted in the Lord
and have not faltered.

² Test me, Lord, and try me,
examine my heart and my mind;

³ for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love
and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.

⁴ I do not sit with the deceitful,
nor do I associate with hypocrites.

⁵ I abhor the assembly of evildoers
and refuse to sit with the wicked.

⁶ I wash my hands in innocence,

	<p><i>and go about your altar, Lord, ⁷proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds. ⁸Lord, I love the house where you live, the place where your glory dwells. ⁹Do not take away my soul along with sinners, my life with those who are bloodthirsty, ¹⁰in whose hands are wicked schemes, whose right hands are full of bribes. ¹¹I lead a blameless life; deliver me and be merciful to me. ¹²My feet stand on level ground; in the great congregation I will praise the Lord.</i></p>
GOSPEL	<p>How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel? Jesus experienced terrible treatment and rejection in His life and yet did not retaliate but lived out a love towards others and He entrusted Himself to God the way that we are called to do in our relationships even with people we would consider our enemies. God is clearly involved in our relationships today and can use us to lead people to know Jesus through our example in the face of suffering. We also see this pattern in David's life and practice.</p>
NEXTSTEPS	<p>Begin Connect Engage Grow Disciple</p> <p>This is an area that we all need to grow in as we follow Christ and is a discipleship issue that we as pastors need to practice throughout our interaction with people who often can mistreat us or say bad things about us.</p>