

## **The Duties of Practical Christianity, Part 4**

*John MacArthur*

### I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 12:9-21.
- B. The purpose of Romans is to give principles for practical Christian living.
- C. Paul teaches how we are to live with regard to all people.

### II. The worst people.

- A. It is distinctly Christian to bless those who curse us.
  - 1. Jesus taught that we are to respond with love to the world that hates us. (Matthew 5:44, Luke 6:27, Acts 7:6)
  - 2. To bless means to wish good will upon another. We are to bless and not curse at all. (1 Peter 2:21)
- B. It is distinctly Christian to rejoice in the prosperity of others. (Proverbs 17:5; 2 Corinthians 2:3, 1 Corinthians 12:26)
- C. It is distinctly Christian to be sympathetic.

### III. Everyone.

- A. Everyone is to be treated the same. (Philippians 2, James 2, 1 Corinthians 1:10)
  - 1. Do not concentrate on high things. We are to be at home with the lowly. (Luke 14:12)
  - 2. Do not be wise with yourself.
- B. We are to do our best to make peace with everyone. (Matthew 10:46, James 3:17, Judges 14)
- C. We are not to punish injustices—we are to give this over to the Lord. (Deuteronomy 32:35)
- D. It is distinctively Christian to overcome evil with good.

**Application Questions:**

1. Why are some of these distinct Christian practices so difficult?

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2. Who is a personal model for you of one of these qualities?

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3. How can you do better at blessing those who curse you? Explain.

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