



Sermon Discussion Guide

September 14th, 2025 | Romans 12:9-21 | Pastor Greg Doty

Series // Transformed : Romans 12-16

Summary

In this week's sermon in Romans 12, Pastor Greg touched on three things that we see in this passage from Paul: radical transformation, love for the church, and love outside the church. Today, we will focus on one specific point from his sermon: radical transformation. He pointed at verses 14-16 to show that the Christian way of thinking required a complete, radical transformation from Roman culture. While Romans believed that retaliation and vengeance were acceptable, Paul tells Christians to bless those who persecute them. While Roman culture was apathetic towards other people's struggles and circumstances, Paul invites believers to "rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep." Lastly, while Roman society was extremely divided by class, and people stuck to their class, Paul tells Christians that they should "associate with the lowly." Pastor Greg then pointed out that all of these things point to Jesus' time on earth. Jesus was persecuted, and yet he blessed those who persecuted him, even those who crucified them. Jesus was empathetic with the people around them; he sat together with them and was involved in their lives. Jesus even wept when his friend Lazarus died, even though he was going to bring him back to life. Lastly, Philippians 2 says that Jesus didn't count equality with God as something to be grasped; instead, he emptied and humbled himself, taking on human form.

Discussion Questions:

Blessing Those Who Persecute You

- What's one way you've seen people "get even" in adult life (workplace drama, social media, relationships)?
- In your life right now, what does "persecution" look like — if anything? (e.g., ridicule for your faith, unfair treatment, passive-aggressive behavior at work)
- What's the difference between being passive and actively blessing those who wrong you?

Rejoicing and Weeping With Others

- In what ways does apathy (or emotional detachment) show up in our culture today?
- What habits could help you grow in empathy and compassion toward others?
- Can you think of a time someone celebrated with you or comforted you when you were hurting? How did that make you feel?

Associating With The Lowly

- Who might be considered “the lowly” in your world — in your city, school, workplace, or church?
- What does it look like to “associate with the lowly”?

Jesus’ Example

Pastor Greg reminded us that Jesus blessed those who hurt him, wept with his friends, and humbled himself to be with people.

- Which aspect of Jesus’ example challenges you the most right now?
- How can his example empower you to live differently, rather than just trying harder on your own?
- What is one step you can take this week to bless, empathize, or associate with someone in a way that reflects Jesus?