

22 May 2022

Our Vision: GRACE – Community-minded ... in building a loving, welcoming, supportive and flourishing church family – **Romans 12:9-21**

Key verse: (v21) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1. Goodness

(v9) "Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good."

Question 1: How do we abhor what is evil in a healthy, non-judgemental way?

2. Suffering

(v12) "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

Question 2: What does being patient in tribulation really mean in practise?

3. Empathy

(v15) "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep".

Question 3: What is the spiritual value of weeping with people who weep and rejoicing with people who rejoice?

4. Wisdom

(v16) "Never be wise in your own sight."

Question 4: Do have a learning experience from life, in which you suddenly learned the limitations of your own understanding?

5. Peace

(v18) "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

Question 5: How does this instruction comfort and challenge us?

A Prayer

Loving heavenly Father, help me play my part in our hearts desire as a church family to build a loving, welcoming, supportive and flourishing church family.

I have not always held fast to goodness. Please forgive me.

Help me rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation and always be constant in prayer.

May I stand alongside others in my community as they rejoice and as they also weep.

Forgive my arrogance in thinking I am always right, and give me better scripture guided and spirit-filled, judgement in every decision I make in the future.

Help me as far as it depends on me to live peaceably with all.

With the bricks of goodness, suffering, empathy, wisdom and peace, help me build your kingdom, a community and a church family, which brings glory to Jesus my Lord, **Amen.**