

HOW TO LOVE IN AN UNLOVING AND HOSTILE WORLD

Romans 12:17-13:14

Intro: "The Romans 12 Challenge"

How Do We Love When We've Been Mistreated? (12:17-21)

Douglas Moo: *"We're to behave towards our enemies in such a way that our generosity results in remorse that's intended to lead our enemy to repentance and restoration."*

Who Are We In Relationship To Human Government? (13:1-2)

The Role of Government And Our Role As Christian Citizens (13:3-7)

The Challenge To "Owe Love" To Everyone Around Us (13:8-14)

Questions For Reflection and/or Discussion:

- Why makes people desire to "sacrifice their bodies" to good causes like the Ice Bucket Challenge? What keeps us from taking on Paul's challenge to sacrifice our bodies by practicing Romans 12?
- Have you been mistreated by anyone lately? Theoretically, how would you apply Romans 12:17-21 to your situation? Can you see yourself actually doing it?
- How is Paul's teaching on our relationship to our government consistent or different from your thoughts toward the state?
- What does it mean to "owe nothing but love to one another? How do we do that? What ought we do to get to that point in our lives?