

Three Challenging Commands **Romans 12:14-16**

Respond to those unkind to you with kindness. 14

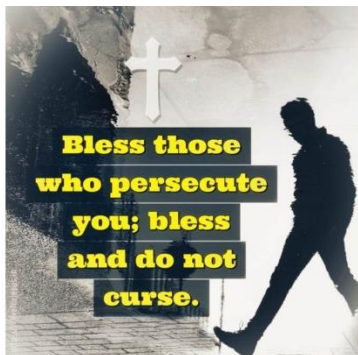
- This can seem like a nearly impossible command to obey. See also I Cor. 4:12, I Pt. 3:8,9. Its origins are Lk. 6:27ff., Matt. 5:45ff., where Jesus offers an expanded version plus the motivation for obeying.
- Why can this command be harder when a believer is unkind to us?

React to other's joys and sorrows with empathy. 15

- Why can such empathy be so challenging? Which is tougher?
- Jesus' empathy is seen in Jn. 11:35. What is the basis for our empathy towards fellow believers? I Cor. 12:36

Resist conceit and associate with the needy in humility. 16

- Be united (*of the same mind*): II Cor. 13:11, Phil 2:2
- Don't be proud/arrogant: 12:3, Phil. 2:3, Js.4:6, Prov. 16:18
- Be connecting with the lowly: I Tim. 6:17,18, Js. 2:1ff., Prov. 14:31
- Don't be wise in our own eyes: 11:25, Prov. 26:12



Once you summon the resolve to bless those who attack you, showing real empathy towards others with a humble spirit becomes far less of a challenge.