

# ROMANS TWELVE



VERSE 9-16 | Page 1616

ROMANS TWELVE

WEEP WITH THOSE  
WHO WEEP

VERSE 15B

“Rejoice with those who rejoice;  
weep with those who weep.”

ROMANS 12:15

Regret

Disappointment

Comfort

# Weep with those who weep.

First — What's the command?

Second — How do we develop capability?

Third — How do we do it skillfully?

I

OUR DUTY IS TO MOURN  
WITH THOSE WHO MOURN

# WHAT IS THE COMMAND HERE?

## WHAT?

“Weep”

The command is  
louder than we  
have made it.

## HOW?

“With”

In concord,  
comradery and  
companionship

## WHO?

“Mourners”

Those who are  
weeping



Including your  
enemies

II

HOW DO WE FIND AND  
DEVELOP THE EMOTION TO  
DO IT?

## **PROVIDENT EMOTION**

Emotion that is governed by you and is ordered to the good. It is emotion that responds virtuously in each situation, rather than producing indulgent, sentimental, or selfish emotions—or none at all.

Spiritual maturity includes emotional maturity and potency.

Virtuous Emotion is not a mood that arrives. It is a capacity for response that is built.

# CONVICTIONALLY REJECT A SEAT TO CALLOUSNESS, CONTEMPT AND AVOIDANCE

CALLOUSNESS

“Who cares.”

CONTEMPT

“He had it  
coming.”

AVOIDANCE

“I wouldn’t know  
what to say.”

“If apathy means a life without any emotion, then who would not consider this insensibility to be worse than all vices?”

“A thing is not necessarily right because it is inflexible, nor healthy because it is insensible.”



AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO (354–430)  
CITY OF GOD XIV.9

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

PHILIPPIANS 4:8–9 NIV84

# THREE WAYS TO GROW DEVOTION AND ATTACHMENT

## MEDITATION

“Think about such  
things”

## IMITATION

“Seen in me”  
“Imitate me.”

## OBEDIENCE

“Put it into  
practice”

“We become just by doing just acts... States of character arise out of like activities.”

ARISTOTLE (384–322 BC)  
NICOMACHEAN ETHICS II.1

Recognition  
+ Affection  
+ Practice  
+ Association =  
Provident Emotion

III

HOW DO YOU ENTER IT  
SKILLFULLY AND HELPFULLY?

# The Basic Skills...

1. Show up. Go to them.
2. Offer good silence
3. Listen first and longer
4. Hospitality not Embarrassment
5. Resist Explanation
6. Engage with directness
7. Stay past the reaction phase (2 wks)



“If I had to boil down the  
message of this entire book to  
just two words:  
show up.”

NANCY GUTHRIE, WHAT GRIEVING PEOPLE WISH  
YOU KNEW

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“Your tears are salve on our wound,  
your silence is salt.”

NICHOLAS WOLTERSTORFF, LAMENT FOR A SON

# THERE ARE TWO SILENCES, AND ONLY ONE OF THEM IS HOLY

## HOLY SILENCE

You come. You sit down. You do not say much, because there is nothing to say. Job's friends did this for seven days and did well.

## CRUEL SILENCE

You do not come. You do not mention it. You nod across the lobby. You don't invite them to things. You are waiting for them to bring it up, and they won't

“The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares.”

HENRI NOUWEN (1932–1996), OUT OF SOLITUDE

“It is wrong to say that God fills the emptiness. God in no way fills it but much more leaves it precisely unfilled.”

BONHOEFFER, FROM TEGEL PRISON

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“An odd by-product of my loss is that I’m aware of being an embarrassment to everyone I meet. At work, at the club, in the street, I see people, as they approach me, trying to make up their minds whether they’ll ‘say something about it’ or not. I hate it if they do, and if they don’t. Some funk it altogether. R. has been avoiding me for a week.”

C. S. LEWIS, A GRIEF OBSERVED (1961), PART I

The resurrection is not a reason to skip the weeping. It is what makes the weeping bearable.

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# ENGAGE WITH CALM DIRECTNESS

Say the name.

Do not  
minimize.

Get under one  
end of the load.

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“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3–4 NIV84

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

H E B R E W S 4:15–16 N I B O