

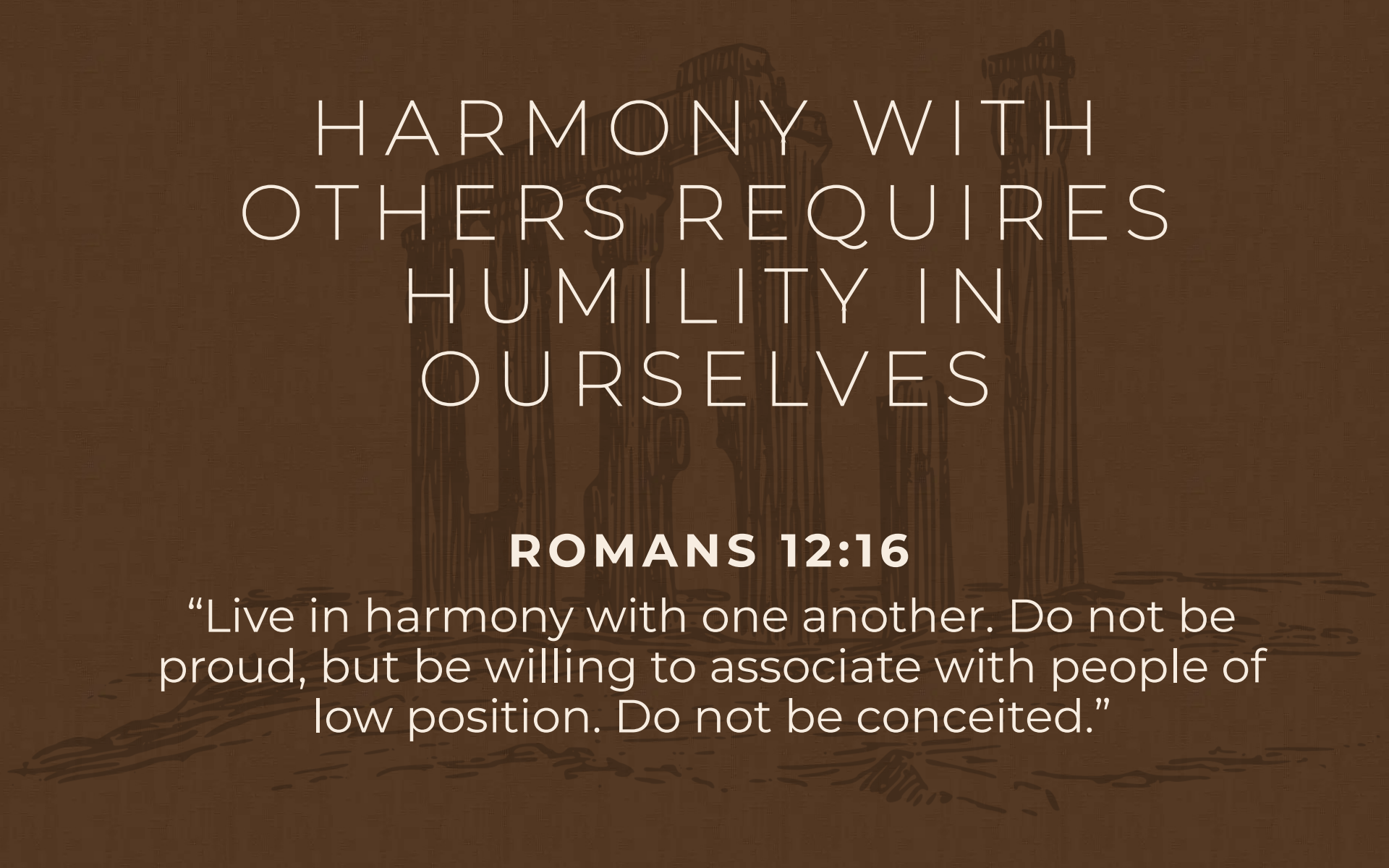
ROMANS TWELVE



VERSES 9-21 | Page 1616

A BUMPER STICKER CULTURE



The background of the image features a series of classical columns, possibly from a Roman temple, rendered in a dark brown, sketchy style. The columns are arranged in a perspective that recedes into the distance, creating a sense of depth. The overall color palette is a range of brown tones, from dark chocolate to a lighter, warm tan.

HARMONY WITH OTHERS REQUIRES HUMILITY IN OURSELVES

ROMANS 12:16

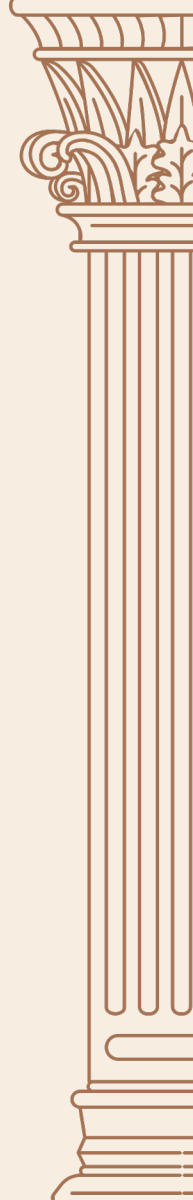
“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.”

HUMILITY IS GROUNDED IN THE GOSPEL

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, **in view of God's mercy**, to **offer your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: **Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment**, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

HUMILITY IS GROUNDED IN THE GOSPEL

⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.



THE GOAL: LIVE IN HARMONY WITH ONE ANOTHER

- 1) This involves a love that is sincere.
- 2) True devotion to one another.
 - Including intimacy of affections and emotions—i.e. rejoicing and mourning with others.
- 3) We are to work to be at peace with others.
 - This includes the lowly.

THE WAY: HUMILITY

- 1) We are to hate from what is evil (even when it seems advantageous).
 - Instead, we are to cling to what is good (even if it costs us).
- 2) We are to honor one another above ourselves.
- 3) We are to keep up our fervor so as to zealously serve the Lord (i.e. not serve our interests).
- 4) We are to be joyful in hope (i.e. we are to look beyond ourselves to the promises of Christ and be joyful in our sure hope of them).
- 5) We are to be patient in affliction (i.e. trust there is purpose and that God is present with us in difficult times).
- 6) We are to be faithful in prayer.
- 7) We are to share with the Lord's people that are in need.

THE WAY OF HUMILITY, CONT.

- 8) We are to share not only our things, but our very selves by practicing hospitality.
- 9) We are to bless those who persecute us.
 - To be clear: we bless and don't curse.
- 10) We are not to be proud.
- 11) We are not to be conceited (i.e. we are not to be wise in our own sight).
- 12) We are prohibited from repaying evil for evil.
- 13) We are to do what is right (honorable) in the eyes of everyone.
- 14) We are not to take revenge.
 - Instead, we are to leave that to God.
 - And do good to our enemies.

Ultimately: We are not to be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

ROMANS 12:16

NIV

Live in harmony with one another
Do not be proud
But be willing to associate with
people of low position.
Do not be conceited.

A more literal translation:

Being of the same mind to one another.
Not thinking exalted (haughty) things
But associating with lowly people.
Do not be wise in your own sight.

The pattern:

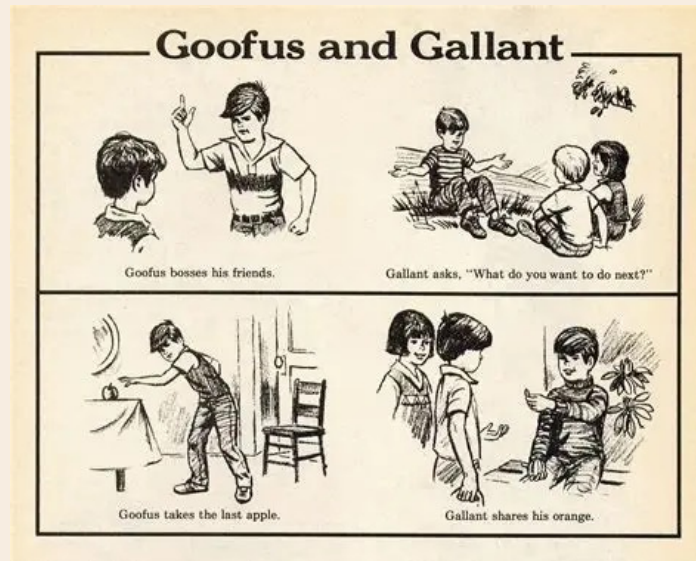
- A. Be of the *same mind with others* (i.e. be in harmony)
- B. Don't be *exalted* (i.e. proud)
- B. But associate with the *lowly*
- A. Not *wise in your own mind* (i.e. conceited)

NASB: "Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation."

SIMPLIFIED MEMORABLE VERSION

Goofus is proud and
wise in his own mind.

Gallant associates with
the lowly and lives in
harmony with others.



THIS IS NOT A “ONE OFF” TEACHING

Do not be wise in your own eyes [don't be conceited], [instead] fear the Lord and shun evil. – Proverbs 3:7

Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. – Galatians 5:26

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil [[Romans 12:17](#)] or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing [[Romans 12:20](#)]. – 1 Peter 3:8-9

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other [i.e. help you to live in harmony] that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. – Romans 15:5-6

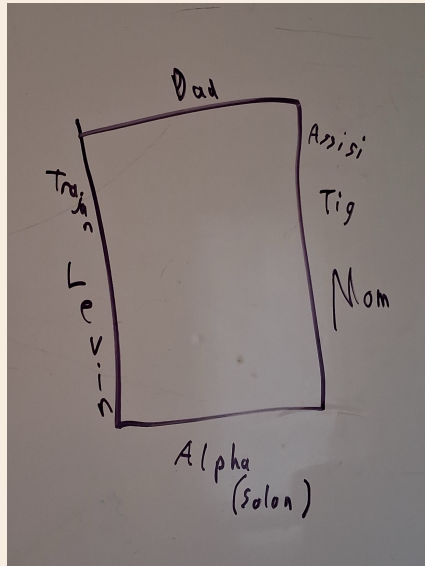
POINT ONE: PRIDE DESTROYS HARMONY

“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud.”



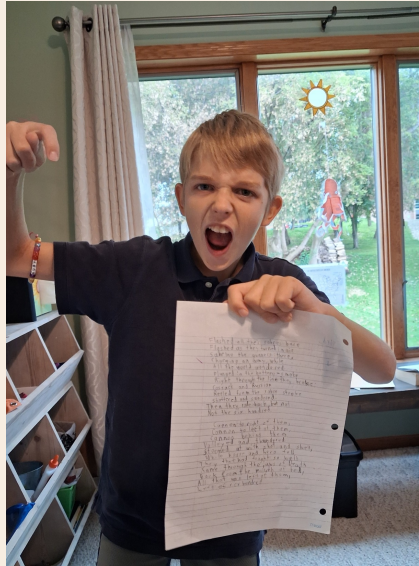
PRIDE DEFINED

Pride Proper



This is where the alpha sits.

Ambition



Mom says I have the best hand-writing.

Vainglory



Happy Birthday Dad!

PRIDE HARMS OTHERS

Lamech said to his wives,
“Adah and Zillah, listen
to me; wives of Lamech,
hear my words. I have
killed a man for
wounding me, a young
man for injuring me. If
Cain is avenged seven
times, then Lamech
seventy-seven times.”

Genesis 4:23-24



*By his own account, Julius
Caesar plunged three
continents into civil war to
defend his honor.*

PRIDE DESTROYS THE SELF



If your goal is to excel above others or be noticed, you are constantly performing and this creates anxiety.

Recommended reading: I Samuel

Even if you are the best, no one remains on top forever.



PRIDE SELF-JUSTIFIES & THEREBY BLINDS THE SELF



When in pride we justify ourselves
we reject the One who died to justify us.

[Recommend reading: John 9.](#)

HUMILITY IS AT THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

Whereas **pride** in self-reliance leads to a rejection of God's grace, **humility** acknowledges limits, faults, and weaknesses and relies on Christ instead of vainly relying on the self.

Whereas **pride** has to perform because it has to win, and when it loses it has to blame someone else, **humility** can lose and be ok with it because it is looking to Him who has already won on our behalf.

Whereas **pride** seeks to get ahead and sees everyone else as obstacles or enemies, **humility** sees others as fellow sufferers, as lost, blind, struggling, etc.—as people in need of healing and it can offer help on behalf of Him who has helped us.

Only in **humility** can we do the things Paul commands, like considering others as better than ourselves and connecting with them to the degree that their successes & failures become ours as we rejoice and mourn with them.

WHAT PRIDE IS NOT

Seeking excellence is a **good** thing. In fact, we are commanded to work with all our hearts unto the Lord (Colossians 3:23).

Not doing our work unto the Lord or seeking excellence in order to dominate others, to unjustly enrich ourselves, or to advance our own glory, is the corruption of that good.

Given this, the antidote to pride isn't laziness or passivity—we don't correct one sin with another.

The antidote to pride is humility.

POINT TWO: HUMILITY BUILDS HARMONY

I Samuel 22



Doeg encouraged Saul in his pride.

I Samuel 25



Abigail restrained David in his pride.



NEGATIVE & POSITIVE FEEDBACK LOOPS

The proud person surrounds themselves with people that feed their pride. This destroys harmony with others and marginalizes people that can check their pride in the future.

The humble person is in harmony with humble people. These people check their pride and thereby help them to live humbly. As they live humbly, they build greater harmony, which expands the amount of, and their intimacy with, people that can help them check their pride in the future.

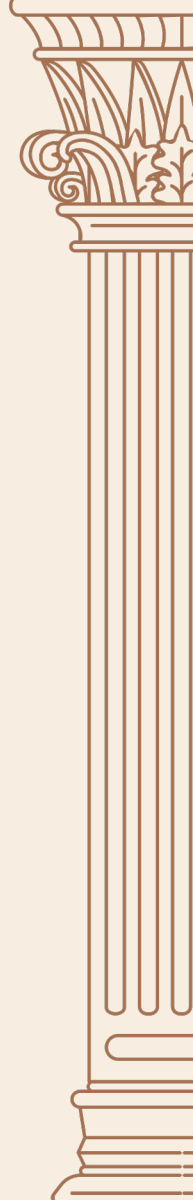
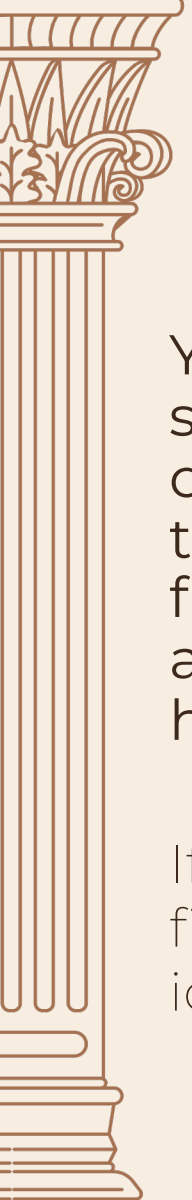


WILL THE INTEGRATED SELF PLEASE STAND UP?



“I’m the dude playin’ the dude
that’s disguised as another dude.”





MID-SERMON APPLICATION

You need Abigails in your life. This requires you to seek comprehensive and lasting harmony with others and to stick it out when Abigails tell you things you don't want to hear, instead of jumping from one fragmented, limited community to another so that no matter what you are doing, you have the support of some Doeg.

If you do not find true fellowship in Christ's body you will find some false, shallow "fellowship" in a hobby or a false, idolatrous fellowship in something like politics.

Solution: Join a local church!

HOW DO WE GROW IN HUMILITY?

- 1) We need to put sin to death in our hearts. Christ commands this and by the power of His Spirit He enables us to do this. (Romans 8:13).
- 2) We “graciously strive”. Knowing that God has given us “everything we need for a godly life”, we “make every effort” to do what is right and grow in godliness. (II Peter 1:3-11)

Growing in humility is no different than growing in any other virtue. By the power of Christ within us we put pride to death and grow in humility by doing the types of humble things that Paul writes about in this section, things like honoring others above ourselves, refraining from repaying evil for evil, and *associating with the lowly*.

We need humility to do these things (i.e. we need to look to and rely on Christ, not ourselves), but these things also help us to grow in humility because we grow by doing.

PRACTICING HUMILITY: ASSOCIATING WITH THE LOWLY



Pride exalts the self at the
cost of others.



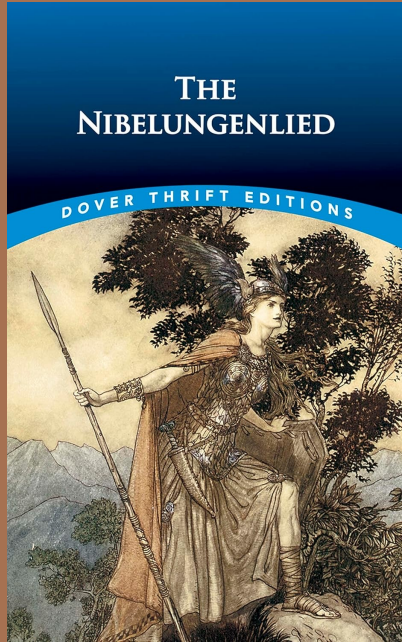
Humility lowers the self
to raise others.

Red Light: Do not be proud,

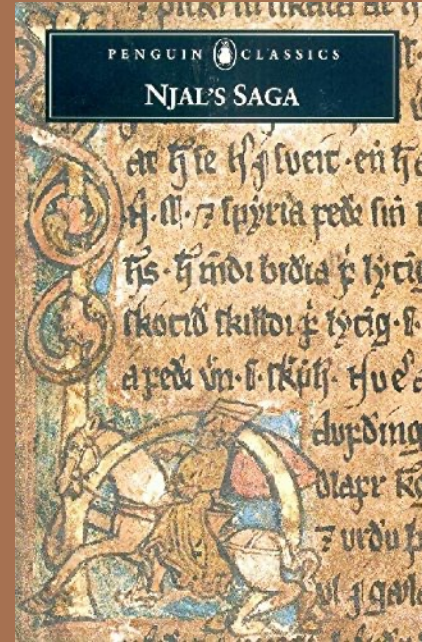
Green Light: But be willing to associate with people of low position.

Red Light: Do not be conceited.

POINT THREE: HUMILITY THAT PRODUCES HARMONY COMES AT A COST



The most famous pre-Gospel Germanic epic is about a woman pridefully killing not just a guilty individual, but massacring every man in his kingdom.



The most famous post-Gospel Germanic epic is about a man humbly suffering and sacrificing in order to bring peace and harmony to his community.



ONLY IN CHRIST CAN WE EMBRACE THE COSTS OF HUMILITY

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our **light** and **momentary** troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

II Corinthians. 4:16-18

CHRIST MODELS HUMILITY & EMPOWERS US TO BE HUMBLE

[Be] like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. [Romans 12:16(a) – be in harmony!] Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit [Romans 12:16(b) – don't be conceited]. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves [Romans 12:10(b)] looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus [i.e. be in harmony with Christ]: