

(Prohibition of physical idolatry.)

v 7 = You shall not lift up the name of the Lord your God for an evil purpose, for the Lord will not acquit him that lifts up His name for an evil purpose (prohibition against asserting divine approval in order to promote an evil idea or action).

v 8 = Remember the day of rest and keep it set apart (in the church age this refers to life inside the divine power system, execution of the Christian way of life with emphasis on the faith-rest drill).

13- Observance of these four worship mandates indicates that the believer has advanced to the level of personal love for God.

14- Personal love for God must occur before the believer has a chance of fulfilling the establishment mandates, characterized by unconditional love for his fellow man.

15- Jesus Himself pointed out this divine order in Mark 12:

v 29 = And one of the scribes . . . asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?"

v 30 = Jesus answered, "The foremost is, (Deuteronomy 6:4) 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord (Jesus Christ) is our God, the Lord (Jesus Christ) is unique (recognition of the Messiah as Savior).'

v 31 = 'And you shall love the Lord your God (Jesus Christ) with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength (recognition of the worship mandates).'

v 32 = "The second is this, (Leviticus 19:18) 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself (unconditional love in fulfillment of the establishment mandates within the environment of spiritual self-esteem).'

There is no other commandment greater than these."

16- There is no other commandment greater than these because they are the embodiment of the entire Decalogue.

E-10/4B
B-10/6

- 17- Keep these two and you fulfill Honor Code Principle #11 found in Romans 12:
- v 18 = If it is possible, and it is, as much as it depends on you, live in harmony with all men.
- 18- Now I think it important to note something here. We have already established the importance of the Greek prepositional phrase translated, "as much as it depends on you."
- 19- We have noted that this honor code principle tells us that it is possible for us to live in harmony with others as long as the maintenance of that harmony finds its source in us.
- 20- When the other man breaks the peace treaty by becoming inharmonious, then we must deal with that breach utilizing biblical problem-solving devices.
- 21- Certain techniques which we may employ include mental and physical separation, legal action and lastly, defensive violence.
- 22- But, while this period of war exists, we are to remain free of judgment directed toward our adversary.
- 23- Our Lord in quoting the second "foremost" commandment was reciting Leviticus 19:18b but it is the final clause of a compound sentence. Leviticus 19:
- v 18 = You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people (fellow citizens), but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.
- 24- Honor Code principle #11 fulfills the two "foremost" commandments.
- 25- When harmony is broken by your neighbor, this principle then enables you to refrain from taking vengeance on him.
- 12- **Honor Code Principle #12:** Always defer to the justice of God when you are tempted to take vengeance or to retaliate. Romans 12:
- ✓ v 19 = Stop avenging yourselves, members of the royal family. Instead, defer to prosecution from the justice of God, for it stands written, "Punishment belongs to Me, I will repay," says the Lord.

1- All breaches of harmony committed by your fellow man must be prosecuted by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Heaven, our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom all judgment has been delegated by the sovereignty of God. John 5:

v 22 = "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son."

2- Peter points this fact out in his sermon at the home of Cornelius in Caesarea; Acts 10:

v 42 = "And He ordered us to preach to the people and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead."

3- Judgment of all unregenerate men and angels will take place before what is called the Great White Throne in Revelation 20:

v 11 = And I saw a great white throne and Him (Jesus Christ) who sat upon it . . .

4- A "prosecutor" according to Black's Law Dictionary, s.v. (1385-6): One who takes charge of a case and performs function of trial lawyer for the people.

5- Recognition of our Lord's prerogative of judgment motivates us to leave all punishment in His hands.

The verse begins with the present active participle of the verb:

>EKDIKE'W = >EK: out from + DI'Kn: justice in the sense of going through a hearing and executing punishment on the guilty. So we have punishment out from what? The direct object, the pronoun:

<EAUTOU'S = yourselves; referring to members of the royal family who have had another believer break harmony with them.

When this occurs, the offended believer conducts a hearing, pronounces a sentence and executes punishment.

This attitude of self-administered judgment is found in this verb and pronoun. Paul's desire is that this attitude be immediately discontinued, therefore these two words are accompanied by the negative particle, Mn'.

From this we get the translation: "Stop avenging yourselves." The verb **>EKDIKE'W** is a descriptive present tense:

pres = Descriptive; what is now going on in the Roman church at the time of writing.

Believers in Rome were at each other's throats. Harmony was broken. Splinter groups had formed. Cliques had developed. Offended parties were taking out vengeance on their adversaries. The negative particle thus is telling the Roman believers to stop what is currently going on.

act = Roman believers who were taking out revenge on others were to stop producing this action.

part = Imperative use; thus a command, "Stop (the current practice of) avenging yourselves."

To make sure you understand that it is believers who are involved in these donnybrooks within the church, Paul adds the vocative plural of address from the adjective:

>AGAPnTO'S = "Those who are loved." Well we know that this does not refer to members of the Roman church loving each other.

This refers to believers who are loved unconditionally by God. Why? +R! Regardless of the fact that they are involved in disharmony on the one hand and counter vengeance on the other, they are all members of the Royal Family.

As a result, Jesus Christ who is in charge of punishing all of them for their lack of honor, gives an order through Paul: "Members of the Royal Family, stop avenging yourselves."

- 1- PRINCIPLE: Jesus Christ has been retained by God to prosecute all matters of judgment and thus holds the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Heaven.
- 2- When we make the decision to hold trial, conduct a hearing, reach a verdict and meat out punishment against our fellow believer, we have chosen to take upon ourselves the duties assigned exclusively to Jesus Christ.