

LIFE Group Guide

Our Unity

Pastor Justin Searles

February 15, 2026



THE ORCHARD

Read: Romans 12:14-21

Outline:

Respond to evil of others:

- Bless your offenders (14)
- Synchronize your emotions (15) to serve rather than dictate
- Harmonize your relationships (16a) to pursue peace, balance, and union
- Equalize your positions (16b) to endear the lowly to you
- Tranquelize the urge to get revenge (17 & 18) to pursue peace instead

Heap burning coals:

- Cause their conscience to burn
- Extend undeserved kindness to one in need
- Let your kindness contrast their evil so that they bear shame
- Let the offense be added to the burning vengeance of God's wrath

Christ's heart toward we who are evil:

- He blessed those who offended
- He felt what we feel – Synchronized
- He sought harmony with us – Harmonized
- He was not haughty but condescended to the lowly - Equalized
- He distrusted human wisdom - Criticized
- He did not avenge himself – Tranquilized
- He heaped burning coals upon our heads

Discussion Questions

1. What encouraged, nourished, or challenged you from this sermon? The scripture passage?
2. What are some ways you experience persecution or evil in your life? How can your response cultivate either unity or disunity?
3. What practices does Paul communicate to foster unity rather than disunity in God's people? Which one is most difficult for you?
4. Look through the list of commands that Paul gives in this section. Talk through examples of how Jesus did each of these in his life and ministry, or how he does it to you.
5. What is a practical way you can follow one of these commands this week in your family, your small group or in your life?