

- 15- The key to handling this pressure is to keep your thinking grace oriented. Remember you are dealing with another member of the royal family.
- 16- Doctrinal orientation to reality reminds you that it is a family matter and God will take care of any necessary details.
- 17- Thus as long as your thoughts are objective then you may or may not wish to verbalize praise for your adversary. You may wish to keep silent.
- 18- This approach was the one taken by Joseph Hall's Honest Man, "when his name is traduced, his innocency bears him out with courage: then, lo, he goes on in the plain way of truth, and will either triumph in his integrity, or suffer with it."
- 19- This approach eliminates use of the adversative conjunction "but": "Oh, I think Fred is the finest Christian gentleman I know but I am afraid that he has the habit of plundering into the affairs of others without any concept of what he is talking about." Or, in street language: "Fred Jones is a believer I know, but in my opinion he is a meddling SOB."
- 20- This is verbal retaliation and is prohibited by the last mandate of the verse, "do not curse them."
- 21- The word for "curse" is **KATARAO'MAI** and means to imprecate, to wish evil on; to have an antagonistic attitude; to pray against.
- 22- We are not permitted to publicly castigate our fellow believer who persecutes us nor are we allowed the prerogative of praying that God visit misery and suffering upon him.
- 23- Such an attitude indicates you have reacted to outside adversity creating stress in the soul.
- 24- Such an approach indicates you have lowered yourself to the level of your adversary and joined him on the playing field of cosmic warfare.
- 25- From such conflict the body of Christ cannot be restored to harmony or unity.

26- Devotion to the plan of God requires that personal assault be met with objectivity and poise and a willingness to allow God to resolve the issue in His own way.

8- **Honor Code Principle #8:** Respond with happiness for those who are prospered by the Lord. Respond with compassion for those who are suffering. Romans 12:

v 15 = Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

1- It is important to realize that the unbeliever may express happiness over the prosperity of another but after having done so will often seek to outdo him.

2- This is called, "keeping up with the Fred Jones's" and indicates a false sense of destiny.

3- God has a perfect plan which includes every believer. Each one is assigned a certain station in life in which he is to execute his part of that plan. When each believer does his part, the plan of God is fulfilled.

4- Too often material prosperity is assumed to be the only advantage one may enjoy in this life.

5- Not so. True prosperity is to arrive at the realization of one's destiny. We have studied this as niche identification and niche attainment.

6- A personal sense of destiny therefore gives one a relaxed mental attitude about his station in life and promotes a genuine sense of happiness toward the prosperity of other believers.

7- Further, the unbeliever may express sorrow at the misfortune of others and then gossip about how the sorry scum bag had it coming.

8- Understanding providence--i.e., the divine decrees--the mature believer evaluates the suffering of other believers as part of the plan of God.

9- Again, they "respect the nature of the actions, not the sequel."

- 10- While the individual is enduring the pressure and its attendant pain and suffering, you are to express a genuine sympathy and empathy toward them.
- 11- Assuming divine punitive justice has been visited on all who suffer is part of the hangover which plagues those who stayed too long in legalistic churches.
- 12- A personal sense of destiny permits you to rejoice with those who rejoice while an understanding of the divine decrees enables you to weep with those who weep.

2-9/10
3-9/13A

Review of Honor Code Principles 1-8:

#1: Stop being self-centered. Deal with your fellow believer objectively. Romans 12:

v 3 = I say through the grace that has been given to me to everyone who is among you: stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you ought to think (aorist, active, infinitive of the verb **UPERPhRONE'W**: to think highly of one's self) but rather think in terms of objectivity (present, active, infinitive of the verb **SWPhRONE'W**: sane, responsible thinking) as God has assigned us a standard of thinking from doctrine.

#2: Never force a person to function beyond his own norms and standards, especially in the area of spiritual gifts. Romans 12:

v 4 = Just as we have many parts in one body (eyes, ears, hands) and all parts do not have the same function (seeing, hearing, feeling),

v 5 = So we the many are one body in Christ (individual members of the royal family who make up the universal church, the heavenly community, the body of Christ), and individually parts one of another.

#3: Impersonal love toward all mankind does not require you to compromise truth. Romans 12: