

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.’ ³⁹But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also...

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.

(Matthew 5:38-39, 43-44)

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Romans 12

Our Response to God's Mercy in Christ

¹⁷Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. ¹⁹Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord. ²⁰“BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

(Romans 12:17-21)

Love Your Enemy

➤ Seek peace, not retaliation

1) We are to resist our “right” for revenge out of love for our enemy

Do not say, “Thus I shall do to him as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.” (Pr. 24:29)

Love Your Enemy

- Seek peace, not retaliation
- 2) We are to seek to do the good things that even non-Christians recognize and approve

See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. (1 Thess. 5:15)

Love Your Enemy

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¹² Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation...¹⁵ For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. (1 Pet. 2:12,15)

Love Your Enemy

- Seek peace, not retaliation
- 3) We are to do everything we can to live at peace, yet without compromising obedience to God's Word

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Matt. 5:9)

Love Your Enemy

- Seek peace, not retaliation
- 3) We are to do everything we can to live at peace, yet without compromising obedience to God's Word

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. (James 3:17-18)

Love Your Enemy

Q: What enables these actions and attitudes?

- God's mercy to us in Christ – He did not treat us as our sin deserved!

³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

(Luke 6:35-36)