

## The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

## Love Your Enemy (pt. 2)

Romans 12:17-21

<sup>17</sup> Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Take thought of that which is good in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

<sup>19</sup> Never 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. <sup>20</sup> "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." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

(Romans 12:17-21)

## Love Your Enemy

### ➤ Commands

#### 1. Leave vengeance to God

- do not justify revenge as something "deserved"
- believing in the reality God's ultimate vengeance, frees us to love our enemy sincerely
- vengeance belongs uniquely to the Lord; He will execute His judgment perfectly

<sup>4</sup> Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

<sup>5</sup> But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

<sup>6</sup> who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:

(Romans 2:4-6)

## Love Your Enemy

### ➤ Commands

#### 2. Do good to your enemy

- we are to perform practical acts of helpfulness for our enemy in the ordinary things of life

<sup>27</sup> “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup> Treat others the same way you want them to treat you...

<sup>35</sup> 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*. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

(Luke 6:27-36)

## Love Your Enemy

### ➤ Commands

#### 2. Do good to your enemy

- we are to perform practical acts of helpfulness for our enemy in the ordinary things of life
- doing good to our enemy is a means of causing his shame which may lead to repentance

## Love Your Enemy

### ➤ Summary

1. Do not allow the evil of our enemy to produce in us attitudes and actions of hatred and revenge
2. Constantly seek to do good as an instrument that vanquishes the animosity of our enemy

## Love Your Enemy

### ➤ Resource

- God loved us while we were enemies, and overcame evil with good—death of Christ (cf. Rom. 5:10)

*“We are disciples of Him, who died for His enemies”*

—Charles Bridges