

OVERCOMING EVIL ~ Romans 12:17-21

→ Scripture Reading Romans 12:14- 21

LIVE AT PEACE WITH EVERYONE? ~ Romans 12:17-18

[17] Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. [18] If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Our testimony is more important than our rights. Ingram

How we respond to injustice or personal attacks is more important than getting our own way or proving that we are right. Ingram

APPLICATION

1 Peter 3:8-9 (NIV) Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. [9] **Do not repay evil with evil OR insult with insult**, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV) Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. [32] Be kind and compassionate to one another, **forgiving each other, JUST AS in Christ God FORGAVE you.**

Not FORGIVING is like drinking rat poison and then waiting for the rat to die Lamott

Forgiveness - giving up my RIGHT to GET EVEN with you for hurting me Unknown

Why Should we FORGIVE? Life App St Bible

- it breaks the cycle of RETALIATION
- it may lead to mutual RECONCILIATION
- it may make cause SHAME
- REPAYING evil for evil hurts US
- it frees us from BITTERNESS

DON'T TAKE REVENGE ~ Romans 12:19-21

[19] Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Vengeance and judgment are God's responsibility not ours Holman Com

[20] On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

If my bad temper puts you in a bad temper you have been overcome by evil. J N Darby

APPLICATION

Revenge is repaying evil for evil - with INTEREST. Barton

Reasons for NOT taking Revenge Holman NT Com

- God says we should NOT
- We usurp God's AUTHORITY when we do
- it brings SHAME on the Lord Jesus
- it can harm to the cause of the GOSPEL

Matthew 5:38-42 (NIV) You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' [39] But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

APPLICATION

TAKE AWAY ??

Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. [3] **Consider him** who endured such OPPOSITION **from sinful men**, so that you will **not grow weary** and LOSE HEART.