

## **Romans 12:14-16 (NLT)**

**[14] Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. [15] Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. [16] Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!**

## **Romans 12:17-19 (NLT)**

**[17] Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. [18] Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. [19] Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God...**

## **Romans 12:19-21 (NLT)**

**...For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the LORD. [20] Instead, “If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.” [21] Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.**

# **OVERCOMING EVIL**

**Romans 12:14-16**

**Our testimony is  
more important  
than our rights.**

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

## 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.**

**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**

**Forgiveness**  
is giving up **MY**  
**RIGHT** to **GET EVEN**  
with you for hurting me

# Why Should we FORGIVE?

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

**VENGEANCE and JUDGMENT**  
**are God's RESPONSIBILITY**  
**NOT ours.**

**If MY bad temper  
puts you in a bad temper  
you have been  
OVERCOME by evil.**

**Revenge is REPAYING**  
**evil for evil**  
**- with INTEREST**

# Reasons for **NOT** taking Revenge

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

## Matthew 5:38-42 (NIV)

You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' **But I tell you,**

**Do not resist an evil person.**

If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

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.

**CONSIDER him who endured such**  
**OPPOSITION from sinful men,**  
**SO THAT**

**you will not grow weary and**  
**LOSE HEART.**