

Embracing Offense

Romans 12:17-21

Relationship With Our Enemies

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

(Luke 6:27-28)

Love Our Enemies

- Based on what Jesus did for us.
- Romans 12 is based on
Romans 1-11.

Love Our Enemies

It is a call to be like Jesus so that we can point others to him.

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

(Romans 5:8)

The Don'ts

'Do not curse' (v.14)

'Do not repay anyone evil for evil' (v.17)

'Do not take revenge' (v.19)

'Do not be overcome by evil' (v.21)

No revenge and no punishment

“What offense does to you is it justifies you withholding your love... In fact, what punishment looks like most often is withholding love... We must set clear boundaries, as Scripture teaches, for people who do not repent. But we must learn to stop punishing people who do repent.”

(Danny Silk, *Culture of Honor*)

“Do not be overcome by evil”

“Don’t let another person’s offense produce offense in you.”

“Don’t let your another person’s evil make you evil.”

Jesus is Lord, not our enemies.

The Dos

‘Bless’ (v.14)

‘Do what is right and live at peace with everyone’ (v.17-18)

‘Leave room for God’s wrath’ (v.19)

‘Overcome evil with good’ (v.21)

Practice Confrontation

1. **Truth** – Bring something to light
2. **Love** – Restore and strengthen relationship
3. **Gentleness** – Speaks the truth in a way that can be well received.

Repay Good For Evil

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink...” (v.20)

Repay Good For Evil

- To repay good for evil is to **overcome evil with good.**
- This is the **way of the cross.**
- Jesus overcame the evil of sin and rebellion with the good of his death and resurrection.

Does It Always Work?

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” (v.18)

The Way of the Cross

- Involves denying ourselves and suffering for the sake of righteousness.
- It is also the **road to victory**.

“Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

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.” (v.19-20)

“you will heap burning coals on his head”?

- A symbol of repentance?
- A symbol of blessing?
- A symbol of judgment?

“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?”

(Romans 2:4)

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed." (Romans 2:5)

Christ is Enough

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

(Galatians 2:20)

**Christ as our all-sufficient
contentment and security**