

# Paul's Epistle to the ROMANS

6/6/2021 AM

## "Dealing With Your Enemy" Romans 12:17-21



### Introduction:

#### Your Transformation and its Effect on Relationships

- to God (Rom. 12:1-2) - commitment and transformation
- to yourself (Rom. 12:3-8) - development and use of gifts
- to one another (Rom. 12:9-16) - love in the family of God
- to our enemies (Rom. 12:17-21) - service, not retaliation
- to the state (Rom. 13:1-7) - conscientious citizenship

### I. EVIL STIRS UP YET MORE EVIL (vs. 17-18)

#### A. In Response to Wrongs (vs. 17)

"Never pay back evil for evil to anyone."

Matthew 5:38-39  
I Thessalonians 5:15  
I Corinthians 13:5

"Respect what is right in the sight of all men."

#### B. With Respect to People (vs. 18)

"If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men."

Matthew 5:9

### II. VENGEANCE LEAVES NO ROOM FOR GRACE (vs. 19)

#### A. Leave it to the Lord. (vs. 19a)

"Never take your own revenge, beloved..."

Proverbs 24:29  
Luke 6:29

"...but leave room for the wrath of God."

Proverbs 20:22

#### B. Learn from His example. (vs. 19b)

"For it is written, 'VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY', says the Lord." (Deuteronomy 32:25)

Psalm 94:1 and I Thessalonians 4:6

### III. DESIRE FOR JUSTICE CAN CORRUPT YOU (vs. 20-21)

#### A. Don't yield to your natural reaction. (vs. 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.” (Proverbs 25:21-22)

#### B. Return good for evil. (vs. 21)

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

### Conclusion:

- 1) Love for friends *and enemies* is evidence that you are becoming “a living sacrifice”.
- 2) Because God has overcome the evil in you by His love, you are to overcome evil in others by love.
- 3) When it comes to offenses suffered from others, you need to learn to let it go. This will only happen if you give it to the Lord.

### Food for Thought:

- 1) How does biblical love motivate us to action?
- 2) How is it possible to love other people biblically even if there are no emotional feelings toward them?
- 3) To what acquaintance (friend or enemy) do you need to show more love?
- 4) Name some specific ways that you can overcome evil with good.