

Paul's Letter to the
Romans

Ch. 12:17-18



HOW ARE WE TO RESPOND TO A HOSTILE WORLD?

1. Temperance (v. 17)
2. Honor (v. 17)
3. Peace (v. 18)



ROMANS 12:9-18

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.



ROMANS 12:17



17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone.
Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

“EYE FOR EYE, TOOTH FOR TOOTH...”



- ✓ Found in 3 places: Ex. 21:24, Lev. 24:20, and Deut 19:21.
- ✓ Theses were the “ordinances” of Israel. This was a part of the judicial LAW of Israel.
- ✓ What the Lord was trying to stress was that the court system’s punishment should fit the crime (not be less or more)
- ✓ Was never meant to be taken as a license to exercise your own personal vengeance on people.

HOW ARE WE TO RESPOND TO A HOSTILE WORLD?



1. Temperance (v. 17)

- ✓ Self control, self restraint—don't pay back evil for evil.
- ✓ Someone sins against you, don't retaliate and sin back.

1 SAMUEL 16:5-12

“When King David came to Bahurim, behold, there came out from there a man of the family of the house of Saul whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera; he came out cursing continually as he came.

He threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David; and all the people and all the mighty men were at his right hand and at his left. Thus Shimei said when he cursed, “Get out, get out, you man of bloodshed, and worthless fellow! “The LORD has returned upon you all the bloodshed of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. And behold, you are taken in your own evil, for you are a man of bloodshed!” Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over now and cut off his head.” But the king said, “What have I to do with you, O sons of Zeruiah? If he curses, and if the LORD has told him, ‘Curse David,’ then who shall say, ‘Why have you done so?’ ” Then David said to Abishai and to all his servants, “Behold, my son who came out from me seeks my life; how much more now this Benjamite? Let him alone and let him curse, for the LORD has told him. “Perhaps the LORD will look on my affliction and return good to me instead of his cursing this day.”



MATT. 26:51-53

“And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. “Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?”



- ✓ 1 angel killed 185,000 Assyrian troops in a single day—ONE! (2 Kings 19:35)
- ✓ Jesus has 12 Legions at his disposal.
- ✓ 1 Legion=6000 troops.
- ✓ That means with a single word, Jesus could have called down 72,000 angels capable of killing 13,320,000,000 soldiers by the end of the day.
- ✓ This is more than the population of the earth at the time.

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1. Temperance (v. 17)



ROMANS 12:17



17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone.
Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

- ❖ Do the right thing to everyone—even those who hate you.
- ❖ Respect means: “To take thought of, to take into consideration”
- ❖ Stop thinking about how you can get this person back and think about “What is the RIGHT thing to do in this circumstance.”

EXODUS 23:4-5



“If you meet your enemy’s ox or his donkey wandering away, you shall surely return it to him.

“If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying helpless under its load, you shall refrain from leaving it to him, you shall surely release it with him.”

HOW ARE WE TO RESPOND TO A HOSTILE WORLD?



1. Temperance (v. 17)

- ✓ Self control, self restraint—don't pay back evil for evil.
- ✓ Someone sins against you, don't retaliate and sin back.

2. Honor (v. 17)

- ✓ Do the right thing, no matter WHO it is.
- ✓ We are called to do what is right in the sight of ALL people.

1 THESS. 5:15



“See that no one repays another with evil for evil,
but always seek after that which is good for one
another and for all people.”

THE WORLD IS WATCHING YOU
TO SEE HOW YOU RESPOND.



1 PETER 2:12

“Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.”



“RIGHT?”



- Our “right” will not necessarily be their “right”.
- We must always be governed by what God says is right, not man.
- And live by it (and not the worlds standards)
- Sin is ALWAYS detrimental to the one who does it.
Doesn't matter what the sin is.

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HEBREWS 12:14



Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.””

“Fulfillment of the next characteristic is conditional, in that it partly depends on the attitudes and responses of our enemies. Whether between nations or individuals, peace is two way. BY definition, a peaceful relationship cannot be one-sided. Our responsibility is to make sure that our side of the relationship is right, that our inner desire is genuinely to be at peace with all men, even the meanest and most undeserving. Short of compromising God’s truth and standards, we should be willing to go to great lengths to build peaceful bridges to those who hate us and harm us. We must forsake any grudge or settled bitterness and fully forgive from the heart all who harm us. Having done that, we can seek reconciliation honestly.”



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