

Romans 12:18-21 - The Gospel of Christian Living!

Scriptures:

¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on

G1415 -

you, live peaceably with all men.

G1514 - behave in
a way to promote
harmony.

Notes:

To live peaceably with others, we need to be thinking our doing what is in their best interests, we need to be thinking about doing good for them. We can't be focused on the evil they have done to us or worse, thinking about getting back at them for that evil.

It is not always possible to live peaceably with some people. The question is, have you done everything you can to make peace possible?

Paul then tells us why we shouldn't respond to evil with evil, even though humanly, we might be justified.

Scriptures:

¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but

G1556 - take
vengeance.

rather give place to wrath; for it is written,

G1325 - allow
for.

G5117 - occasion.

G3709 -
punishment.

Notes:

Paul is telling us to let God handle it. The phrase 'give place to wrath' means if God is going to avenge you, you need to get out of the way He can do it. God is just, perfectly right in everything He does, including pouring out His wrath on those who deserve it. What is inferred here is if you choose to avenge yourself God will not help you and you are trying to take God's place. If you do something, He might not bring the justice He would have otherwise. Let God do it - He does it perfectly.

"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the

Lord.

Scriptures:

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Matthew 5:14-16 - ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

²⁰ Therefore *"If your enemy is hungry, feed*

him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so

doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

Notes:

[verses 20-21]

Instead of evil or vengeance, do good to those who don't deserve it. After all, that's how God dealt with your sin. Respond to evil with good, respond to hate with kindness, respond to persecution with patience. The key to doing those things, is trusting God completely. The more we trust God, the easier it is to do the things Paul is exhorting us to in this text. [Proverbs 3:5-6](#)

It might not make a lot of sense to the people around you, and it might even make sense to you, but when you do what Paul is exhorting us to do here, the love of Christ is on full display. We are called to living examples of the love of God. That is what Jesus meant in ... [Matthew 5:14-16](#)

As you do these things, the world is seeing Christ's light shining out of you. The better you do it, the brighter His light shines. We get better at it as our faith grows. Keep growing church and keep shining.

Scriptures:

²¹ Do not be overcome by ~~evil~~^{xxx}, but overcome

G3528 – be
defeated.

Notes:

~~evil~~^{xxx} with good.

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