

**Shining Like Stars:
Overcoming Evil With Good**

Romans 12:17-21

Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But now I tell you: do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. Love and do good to him or her ... [The Most High] is good to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful just as your Father is merciful.”

Matthew 5:38-39

Luke 6:35-36

Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **Beloved, never avenge yourselves**, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” **Do not be overcome by evil**, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:17-21 ESV

True followers of Jesus do not retaliate but do what is right to all

DO NOT RETALIATE

- Do not repay anyone evil for evil
- Do not take revenge
- Do not be overcome by evil

Do not take revenge, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord Romans 12:19NIV

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21 ESV

Do not retaliate. Do what is right!

Bless your opponent

Discover the beauty in everyone

do what is honorable

Do your best to live peaceably with all

Be merciful

Leave the punishment to God

Serve your adversary

Love and forgive

Get the best of evil by doing good

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It is good never to retaliate because if we repay evil for evil, we double it, adding a second evil to the first, and so increasing the tally of evil in the world. It is even better to bless, to do good, to seek peace and to serve and convert our enemy. To repay evil for evil is to be overcome by it. To repay good for evil is to overcome evil with good. This is the way of the cross. 'Such is the masterpiece of love.' (John Stott, The Bible Speaks Today)

Suffering for Doing Right

¹⁰ The Scripture says, “A person must do these things to enjoy life and have many happy days. He must not say evil things, and he must not tell lies. ¹¹ He must stop doing evil and do good. He must look for peace and work for it. ¹² The Lord sees the good people and listens to their prayers. But the Lord is against those who do evil” (*Psalm 34:12–16*). ¹³ If you are trying hard to do good, no one can really hurt you. ¹⁴ But even if you suffer for doing right, you are blessed. “Don’t be afraid of what they fear; do not dread those things” (*Isaiah 8:12–13*). ¹⁵ But respect Christ as the holy Lord in your hearts.

Suffering for Doing Right

Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have, ¹⁶ but answer in a gentle way and with respect. Keep a clear conscience so that those who speak evil of your good life in Christ will be made ashamed. ¹⁷ It is better to suffer for doing good than for doing wrong if that is what God wants. ¹⁸ Christ himself suffered for sins once. He was not guilty, but he suffered for those who are guilty to bring you to God. His body was killed, but he was made alive in the spirit ... And this is because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. ²² Now Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God's right side ruling over angels, authorities, and powers. 1 Peter 3:10-22 NCV

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