

Deadly Exercise
Text: Romans 12:17-21

- 17) “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18) If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19) 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. 20) 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 burningcoals on the head.” 21) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:17-21 **NIV**

Revenge and retaliation can be a deadly exercise. It can potentially imprison us for the rest of our lives.

Revenge is forbidden in the Old Testament: *Lev. 19:18 / Proverbs 24:29*

Personal revenge is forbidden in the New Testament by:

- a) Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:38-45)
- b) The Apostles (1 Thes. 5:15)

Would you consider a Christ-like response?

1. Show your enemies undeserved kindness which may elicit a response of shame or repentance (vs17-19).
2. Win them over. “*Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good*” (v20).

Justice must be done but it must be left in the hands of God, or of the authorities ordained by God. Christians are never to take vengeance into their own hands (*1 Co 6:1-11*)

- a) Be at peace with the law, the law enforcers and those in government authorities. We are told to acknowledge their authority as being appointed by God (*Romans 13:1-7*)
- b) Be at peace with your employer and those above you at work (1 Pe 2:18-25).

- c) Find comfort in knowing that your Christ-like response at work is commendable before God and, without your knowledge, to a lot of people because their eyes are on you.

There are times when it might not be possible to be at peace with all (**v18**). But, as Christians, we are not called to help God carry out divine retribution. Rather, we are told to do otherwise (1 Peter 3:9).

3. Give room for God to avenge you. Let God repay them back. Leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written” “It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord (Heb 10:31; 2 Thes. 1:6).

Nahum 1:5 - The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.

In the meantime, allow God to heal, strengthen you, comfort, and encourage you each day! Let Him develop your patience. That is one blessing.

Rest in the Lord and zip your mouth if you know that your next words would blow up your blessings (1 Peter 3:8-12)

Look at every situation as opportunities for you to let God be who He said He is. Wait for Him to vindicate you! Today’s misery is tomorrow’s victory in Jesus name! Great is thy faithfulness.

Assignment:

1. Get a piece of paper, your bible and pen. Write down Bible verses that speaks of Christ’s victory. Pray these verses out loud into your circumstances. In faith, expect God to deliver!
2. Write down the names of people who have caused you harm. Release them. Pray a prayer of blessing to them, their family, and ministry. Thank God for enabling you to do it.