

ROMANS: PART 79
NOVEMBER 16, 1997

The Consecrated Christian's New View of His Enemies
When Revenge Is Not Sweet
Romans 12:14,17-21

The Context of Romans 12

1. A call to consecrate ourselves unto God. Rom 12:1,2
2. Application: How we are to view ourselves. Rom 12:3-8.
3. Application: How we are to love others. Rom 12:9-16
4. Application: How we are to love our enemies. Rom 12:14,17-21.

In Words: Bless Those Who Curse You. Rom 12:14

1. The Negative Command: *Do not curse those who curse you*
 - ◆ It's the natural response of the victim to strike back...it is to be *mean*
 - ◆ You must not strike back in words. Prov 17:14; 15:1
 - ◆ Christ did not strike back in words. I Pet 2:21-23
2. The Positive Command: *Bless* (ευλογεῖ eulogeo) *those who curse you*. Eulogize them

In Deeds: Do Good To Those Who Hurt You. Rom 12:17-18

1. The Negative Command: *Never pay back evil for evil*
 - ◆ God does not call us to react to evil men -- instead we are to respond to Him. Lk 17:3f.
 - ◆ The focus here is not civil justice or self-defense. The issue is revenge. Gen 34.
2. The Positive Command: *Respect what is right in the sight of all men.*
 - ◆ The stakes: Your witness for Christ. Phil 4:5,
 - ◆ E.G. Christ & the Roman Centurion -- saved by seeing Christ's response.

In Justice: Do Good & Leave Room For God's Justice. Rom 12:19-20

1. The Negative Command: *Do not take revenge -- leave room for God's wrath.*
 - ◆ It is God's privilege alone. Ps 2; 76:10; Isa 63:3; Rev 14:19-20; 19:13-15
 - ◆ Wrath becomes God -- wrath does not become us.
 - ◆ The reason we do not take vengeance is that the sin ultimately is against God.
 - ◆ It is therefore His prerogative to judge
2. The Positive Command: *Feed enemy, give drink. Do him good.* I.E. Mirror God's kindness

The Reason: Either Good Or Evil Is The Victor In This Matter. Rom 12:21

1. The Negative: *Don't be overcome by evil*
 - ◆ Vengeance & self-righteousness go hand-in-hand
 - ◆ Vengeance is Satanic. Eph 4:26,27
 - ◆ No vengeful person is happy -- it destroys you!
2. The Positive: *Overcome evil with good*

Application

1. Do you really believe God rules? Cf. Isa 14:12-12; Dan 4:28
2. Do you really believe the Gospel? Mt 18:21-35; 6:12.
3. Are you a new creature in Christ? It's the only possible way to become a forgiver.