



Daily Verse and Comment

[Romans 12:14](#)

(14) Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

[Romans 12:16-19](#)

(16) Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. (17) Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. (18) If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (19) Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

[Romans 12:21](#)

(21) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

[Romans 13:1](#)

(1) Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

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At the very least, Paul derived this from the example of Christ, who submitted to wicked and corrupt officials and authorities. [Jesus](#) had every right to rebel. He was completely innocent and had done nothing wrong—

nothing of which He was accused had been part of His conduct. However, He had every intention of doing the right thing, and He carried through with it.

The true Christian consciously chooses to suffer evil rather than do evil because it would be wrong to do anything other than what Christ did. He set the example. He is the archetype; He is the One who goes before. The Christian is not a masochist, but by [faith](#), he takes steps to prevent war. He does this because he recognizes that two wrongs do not make a right. Just because someone abuses authority does not give him the right from [God](#) to fail to submit to it. This is why there is never any real thought to war. Somebody gets into power and abuses his authority, and those who are under him react carnally and retaliate to get back at the one in authority—and the cycle never ends!

Will there ever be [peace](#)? There will be peace when people submit to God, and that means submitting to His way. If everybody would submit to God's way, war would stop overnight—that would be the end! But men will not submit to God ([Romans 8:7](#)). A major principle we are to learn in this life is to submit under duress, under abuse—when the pressure is on and the desire to retaliate is strongest. We have to learn not to justify our retaliation by saying, "He made me do it—the Devil made me do it!" All the ways of man are right in his own eyes ([Proverbs 14:12](#)).

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Submitting \(Part 1\)](#)



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