



Daily Verse and Comment

Romans 12:17-20

(17) Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. (18) If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. (19) Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord. (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.*"

Romans 13:8-10

(8) Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. (9) For the commandments, "*You shall not commit adultery,*" "*You shall not murder,*" "*You shall not steal,*" "*You shall not bear false witness,*" "*You shall not covet,*" and if *there is* any other commandment, are *all* summed up in this saying, namely, "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*" (10) Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore *love is* the fulfillment of the law.

1 Peter 3:8-9

(8) Finally, all *of you be* of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, *be* courteous; (9) not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

New King James Version

Paul's counsel to the congregation in Rome ([Romans 12:17-20](#); [13:8-10](#)) is clearly in line with what [Jesus](#) taught. He insists that we must never allow

vindictiveness, the desire to get even with someone for a suffered wrong, to drive us.

In the same vein, Peter taught that we must not repay evil with evil, insult with insult, but we must bless ([1 Peter 3:8-9](#)). Why are we called to react this way? Because if we want to be in God's Kingdom, it can only happen without the spirit of murder dwelling in us, and those evil retaliations are the spirit of murder. We are not to take vengeance because [God](#) has retained that responsibility to Himself. Is that not the way it should be? Only He fully knows and understands every facet of the circumstances and can judge perfectly. By the way, Paul addresses the issue of retaliation four times in Romans 12, which begins by stating that we are to be living sacrifices and not to conform to this world's ways.

The picture should be clear. Somebody must be willing to do this if there will be [peace](#). Jesus set the example: He, refusing to strike back, died for the entire world. Christ's non-retaliatory remedy is ultimately for everybody's benefit, but until He returns, the standards He set can be met and lived only by those who, like Jesus, have the Spirit of God, are living by [faith](#), and are enabled to keep God's ways by God Himself.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:
[The Sixth Commandment](#)

Related Topics:

[Faith, Living By](#)

[Living by Faith](#)

[Living Sacrifice](#)

[Non-Retaliatio](#)

[Retaliation](#)

[Revenge](#)

[Sacrifice, Living](#)

[Sixth Commandment](#)

[The Sixth Commandment](#)

[Vengeance](#)

[Vindictiveness](#)

Commentary copyright © 1992-2025 [Church of the Great God](#)
New King James Version copyright © 1982 by [Thomas Nelson, Inc.](#)