

OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD

It is a wrong strategy to fight the enemy with his own weapon. The greatest weapon of the devil and his agents is evil. Therefore, a true child of God who engages or rewards evil for evil is a candidate marked for woeful defeat. You cannot fight the master with his own weapon. Rather, to defeat the enemy, you will have to employ a greater weapon than he has—love. Love is the language and weapon the devil cannot understand.

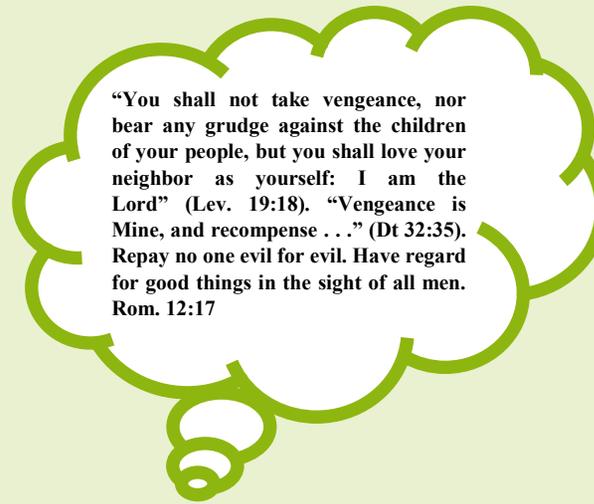
King David clearly understood this important commandment of God, so much so that even when God delivered his enemy (Saul) into his hands, he (David) refused to take vengeance, leaving the righteous God to judge between him and King Saul. (See 1 Sam. 26:9, 1 Peter 2:21-23, Pro. 11:19)

And why does God command us to leave vengeance to Him? God does not want anyone's blood on His children's hands. He is God; He can do what pleases Him. But for us, we cannot remain guiltless for any evil deed we do.

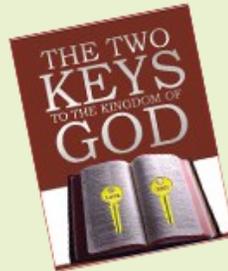
Whoever practices revenge and retaliation has a different spirit and not the Spirit of Christ as He said to His closest disciples below:

Luke 9:54-56 "And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village."

If any reader is still not clear on this very important issue, then let him or her answer these two questions: who is Jesus Christ, and who are we? If we truly believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God who came from heaven to show the way and we are His true disciples (Christians), then it is a no-brainer that we ought to walk as He walked, by way of obedience to His commandments. If we are true followers and friends of Christ, we should obey and adhere strictly to all He has commanded us (see Jn 15:14). It means that those who go contrary to His commandments and doctrine are against Him. As the Lord said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (Jn 10:27). Therefore, the children of God hear only God's voice and do not succumb to confusing voices of the devil and his agents (see Jn 8:47). They live every word of God (see Dt 8:3). He who has ear in his heart to hear, let him hear.



Extracts taken from:



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AVENGE NOT

Love For Others

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

(Matthew 5:44-45)



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2 Cor. 6:2 & Heb. 3:7-8

LOVE FOR OTHERS

Whether we want to admit it or not, the most problematic area for over 99 percent of those who profess to be Christians is the love of others as ourselves, and it is even impossible to comprehend the concept of loving our enemies. For one born of God, the bar is raised a little higher with a new commandment to love others as God has loved us. That is, if it is possible, we should love others more than we love ourselves. This is the new commandment the Lord gave to us (see Jn 13:34). How did Jesus Christ love us? “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (Jn 15:13). It is when we are perfect in love that we can be said to be truly born of God and disciples of Jesus Christ. “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn 13:35). While commanding us to love our enemies, the Lord said that it was what would differentiate us from the children of the devil if we are perfect (in love) as our heavenly Father is. “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Mt 5:44-45). And why should we be as our heavenly Father? There certainly should be a remarkable difference between the children of God and those of the devil. The children of God walk in agreement with God with the necessary Godly attributes, and we cannot say we are one with Him when we are different in works contrary to Him. “For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?” (Mt 5:46-47).

COMMANDED BY OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST

“Love your enemies”—easier said than done. Rather than seriously believing in this commandment and asking God for His Spirit to help us be made perfect in love, we take the easier road by employing every excuse, tactic, and interpretation to rationalize our rebellious disobedience.

Some hold strongly that no human can love as God loves. While this position has an enormous weight to it, it is nevertheless biblically incorrect. Perhaps the better assertion is that no flesh is capable of being perfect in love as God is. Indeed, there is no human who is capable of truly loving his enemies, except one who is born of God and led by His Spirit. God, who knows all things, cannot lie, for He commands us to be holy and perfect as He is—knowing fully well that without His enabling and transforming Spirit, we can do nothing. All things are possible to those who believe.

When the disciples of the Lord expressed their amazement at what He said relative to the rich ruler, He said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Mt 19:26). If we are sincerely willing to forsake our evil ways and obey God with a humble heart, He has promised to give us a new spirit to do that which is impossible for flesh and blood to do. As Jesus said, he who is born of the flesh is flesh, and he who is born

of the spirit is spirit (see Jn 3:6). And as is written, so he answered and said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the Lord of hosts. ‘Who are you, O Great Mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’” (Zec 4:6-7). For those to whom it is given by God and are led by His Spirit, they are under a new commandment to be as perfect in love as God. It is neither doing to others as they do to us nor loving our neighbors as we love ourselves (see Mt 7:12; Lev 19:18). Rather, by loving others as God loves us, people will readily know that we are true disciples of Jesus Christ, for Christ loved us more than He loved Himself; and for that, He gave Himself for us.

AVENGE NOT

We are of Christ if we obey all He has commanded us. And what did our Lord command us to do? Love our enemies and avenge not ourselves. One who is not perfect in love does not have a pure heart and is not born of God, for God is love (see 1 Jn 4:16, 18). It is also written that anyone who claims to be of God and hates another is yet in darkness: “He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him” (1 Jn 2:9-10).

Oh! How much easier said than done? This is one of the most difficult things to get humans to accept, let alone get them to do. Hence, even most of us employ every excuse, trick, and justification in the book to obtain “sweet revenge.” Vengeance, including dangerous and evil prayers against enemies (real or perceived), is the satisfaction of the devilish craving of the proud, wicked, and uncircumcised heart of man. For those who are born of God, they must not only leave vengeance to God, but they are also under spiritual obligation to plead to God to forgive and save the evildoer. They are able to do this because they are led by the Spirit of God, which dwells in them; having acquired a new heart, mind, body, and spirit and therefore able to obey all the commandments of God, one of which clearly says, “You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord” (Lv 19:18). “Vengeance is Mine, and recompense . . .” (Dt 32:35).

VENGEANCE—TAKING MATTERS INTO OUR OWN HANDS

Whoever takes vengeance (retaliates) has taken matters into his own hands, and whoever takes matters into his own hands is not born of God. For even though we live, not us but Christ lives in us; and if Christ lives in us, then we are Christ’s and therefore ought to do the works of Christ and walk as He walked (see Jn 14:12; 1 Jn 2:6). While the Lord was on earth, He taught and lived the exact words and commandments of the Father who sent Him. When He suffered, He avenged not; was forsaken, He loved; was reviled, He reviled not; was cursed, He blessed; was crucified, He forgave. Yet today and forever, He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. To claim or profess to be of Christ and yet act contrary to His commandments is heresy. But most Christians, especially in developing nations, would rather preach, encourage, cite, and practice the works of the Old Testament scripture of “an eye for an eye,” “suffer not the witch to live,” and the judgment and condemnation of every tongue raised against them. Yet they cannot claim that they have not heard the Lord who came down from heaven to show the way.

JESUS “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also” (Mt 5:38-39). Again, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you” (Mt 5:43-44).

WORKS OF THE LAW

- ◆ These Christians who practice and teach the old works of the law forget that the scriptures are in harmony and devoid of contradictions. It is not possible for the omnipotent and all-knowing God to contradict Himself. It is not possible for God to command us both to avenge and not avenge. For evil, no matter how we dress and justify it, is an abomination to God. The New Testament scriptures are filled with love and returning good for evil. Jesus Christ is the only way to the Father, and He was sent by the Father to show us that only way to righteousness and holiness. The apostle Paul, in adherence to the strict doctrine of Jesus Christ, admonished, thus: “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse” (Rom 12:14). “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord” (Rom 12:19). And again, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Rom 12:21).
- ◆ Praying to God against one’s enemies as most Christians do is dangerous and evil. Those who engage in dangerous evil prayers and curses against their enemies are yet doing the works of the law and are under a curse; and as such, the coming, death, and resurrection of our Lord are in vain for them. “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them’” (Gal 3:10).
- ◆ A common and popular evil prayer in just about every church in these places is calling on the Holy Ghost to send His fire against their enemies. This is commonly referred to as “Holy Ghost Fire”. What an abominable heresy and incompatible phenomenon of invoking the Holy Spirit of God to go and do evil. While the fire of the Spirit of God is a blessing, the devil has greatly gone into many churches to turn that which is holy into a means to blaspheme the Spirit of God. When questioned about his authority to baptize, John the Baptist said, among other things, that one greater than him would come, and He would baptize people with the Holy Ghost and with fire (see Mt 3:11).