

(ABC's that threaten Christian living)

Vengeance And Revenge

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1986, (Rev. 99)

Timeless Truths (Why should I avoid vengeance and revenge?)

1. The Christian is instructed not to "repay" (Gr. "apodidomi") evil for evil, Rom. 12:17; 1 Thess. 5:15; 1 Pt. 3:9.
2. The Christian is instructed not to "avenge" (Gr. "ekdikeo") himself, Rom. 12:19.
3. The act of "vengeance" (Gr. "ekdikeo") belongs to the Lord, Rom. 12:19 (Deut. 32:35; Ps. 94:1; Heb. 10:30); except in the case where God allows the government to act as His ministers for the good and protection of the people, Rom. 13:1-7.
4. "Vengeance" is how God rewards those who hate God, Deut. 32:41; who do not know God, and who do not obey the gospel, 1 Thess. 1:8; and who take advantage of a brother, 1 Thess. 4:6.
5. At an appointed time, God will "repay" (Gr. "antapodidomi") the evil deeds of individuals, Rom. 12:19; Jer. 46:10.
6. Paying back evil for evil is not good for either the one being vengeful or the one receiving the vengeance, 1 Thess. 5:15.
7. Christians are called to a life that gives blessings, shows compassion, is tenderhearted, and is courteous, 1 Pt. 3:9; and that practices obedience to the Lord, 2 Cor. 10:6.

Practical Prescriptions (How can I avoid vengeance and revenge?)

1. Trust in the fact that God has an appointed time for justice!

"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.

"For this is the day of the Lord God of hosts, a day of vengeance, that He may avenge Himself on His adversaries..." Jer. 46:10.

2. Transfer the situation over to the Lord for him to work His plan!

"... Who, when He (Jesus Christ) was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously..." 1 Pt. 2:23.

"Do not say, I will recompense evil, wait for the Lord, and He will save you," Prov. 20:22.

3. Turn away from rewarding evil with like kind!

"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," Matt. 5:38-39.

"Do not say, I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work," Prov. 24:29.

4. Tolerate hostile situations of life knowing God has a plan!

"... It is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be defrauded?" 1 Cor. 6:7-8.

5. Try to respond to the hostilities of Christians by expressing love!

"Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing..." 1 Pt. 3:8-9 (Lev. 19:18).