

THE DISH BEST SERVED ... NOT AT ALL

Romans 12:17-21

Vengeance is deeply rooted in the human _____ ; much popular entertainment is based on _____

The impulse toward revenge is so strong and deeply ingrained in us because we think it is _____

Paul instructs us to replace vengeance with a progression of four positive habits, each further along a timeline:

I. _____ EVIL WITH GOODNESS 12:17

"Provide things honest in the sight of all men": pro = _____ + vide is from the same root as _____

A. Make a pre-emptive _____ by doing our enemies good before they have a chance to do us wrong

B. Paul is teaching a technique for dealing with the impulse toward revenge _____ it ever occurs

II. CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT OF _____ 12:18

A. Paul's instruction: Don't have a _____ on your shoulder. Instead maintain peace with _____

B. Two Constraints/Two Limitations:

1) Our own responsibilities: we must not compromise _____ or holiness in order to maintain peace

2) The attitude of others: no matter how peaceable we are, others may refuse to be _____

III. ENTRUST VENGEANCE TO _____ 12:19

A. "Give place to wrath" ≠ Christ saying, "I tell you not to resist an evil person ... turn the other _____"

B. "Give place to wrath" = "Give place to THE wrath—the wrath of God, the _____ of God"

1) "THE wrath" refers to the rest of the verse: "Vengeance is _____ I will repay, says the Lord."

2) "Give place" = open the door or make room: get out of the way so _____ can take vengeance

When God comes in His chariot of wrath, we need to make sure we are not parked in His _____

3) It is an act of the flesh to indulge revenge; it is an act of _____ to entrust the situation to God

4) God does not expect us to just swallow the desire to put things right: we are to direct it to _____

QUESTIONS:

1) Doesn't the Bible say, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth"? *Exodus 21:22-25*

This phrase is ripped totally out of context; this instruction directs _____ how to mete out justice

2) If we are not to take vengeance but give place to God's wrath, what about the death penalty?

Immediately following in Romans 13, Paul calls the _____ God's minister to punish evil

IV. CONQUER EVIL WITH _____ 12:21

A. "Act, don't react": When someone wrongs you, act in _____ as opposed to reacting in anger

When someone wrongs us, we always have a choice:

1) We can choose to take offense and respond in anger and bitterness and seek _____

2) Or we can choose to ignore our feelings, depend on God's grace and determine to do _____

B. According to Paul, choosing to respond by doing good is the path to interpersonal _____

1) Some of us need to change patterns of responding to being wronged learned _____

2) V. 20 gives an example: If your enemy is hungry, _____ him; if he is thirsty, give him a _____