

Overcoming Evil With Good

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1 Peter 3:9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

I. Not rendering - or giving back, returning.

A. We are not to do unto others as they do unto us, but as we **would** that they do unto us.

Matthew 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

B. Our natural tendency is to give the evil back to them.

1. So they will know what it feels like.

2. Because they deserve it and they have it coming.

C. Nobody believes in judging, but it is a pretty universal practice.

1. Most everyone feels like they have the liberty, the wisdom, and the right to determine that other people have said or done wrong and what their punishment needs to be.

D. This is the way of the world, and all the world behaves this way.

1. The reaction to evil is evil.

2. The reaction to railing is railing.

E. But Christians are not of this world and their reactions are to be different because God has commanded so.

II. Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing.

A. Evil means injury, harm, ill, bad.

B. The immediate carnal response is to dish it back to them.

1. This is true for everyone, so no one may think themselves able to do otherwise because their temper is shorter than others.

2. Everyone has the same inclination, but some are more self-disciplined than others and do not blow off immediately.

C. Railing means :

1. Clamoring with insulting language; uttering reproachful words.

2. Expressing reproach; insulting; as a railing accusation. 2 Peter 2.

1. Words affect us almost like being smitten physically.

2. We are quicker to strike back with words than we are with our fists.

3. Many more people are skilled at railing with words than are skilled at fighting with their fists.

4. It is not pleasing to God when we rail on others, or when we rail back on them for railing on us.

III. But contrariwise blessing, knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

A. Blessing: Making happy; wishing happiness to; praising or extolling; consecrating by prayer.

B. This is how a Christian is supposed to respond to evil and railing from others on himself.

C. Not swelled up with pride and returning evil for evil and railing for railing.

D. But humbling ourselves under the might hand of God.

IV. Now there is a promise given to us from God when we conduct ourselves in this matter the way He commands us to.

1 Peter 3:10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

- A. It is one of the most important keys to happiness in this earthly life - not speaking evil.
- B. When you find someone who does not speak evil of others you will find a happy person.
- C. When you find a person who is habitually speaking evil of others you will find an unhappy and miserable person.
- D. The person who does not speak evil of others will be a peaceable person who is easy to get along with.

1 Peter 3:11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

Romans 14:19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

1. He will be one who does good and not evil to others.

V. The Lord is on the side of those do righteousness and He is against those that do evil.

1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

- A. God is always watching the righteous and his ears are always open to their prayers.
- B. But God has his face against them that do evil.
 1. Those who do evil and rail on others have God as their enemy.

Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

2. When we take vengeance ourselves we are jumping in front of God - He wants to do it himself.
- C. Our vengeance only makes folks more angry and offended and determined to get even with us again.
 - D. When God judges evil it works much more effectively.
 - E. So God's way is for us to do good to others even when they do evil to us.

Romans 12:20-21 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

1. This is the way we can overcome evil.

VI. We will just be much better off if we will only listen to God's counsel here.

1 Peter 3:13-14 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

- A. By refraining from doing evil and always doing good to others we lessen the chances that they would want to hurt us.
- B. But if we do suffer for doing good we still have happiness as our reward here and now.
- C. And we have no reason to fear because we know God is watching and listening and He will judge the wicked and care for his own.