

Romans 12:9-13:5 • Justice, Mercy And The Freedom Of Forgiveness

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**

Matthew 11:28 **Come to me**, all who labor and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest.**

Matthew 11:29 **Take my yoke** upon you, and **learn from me**, for **I am gentle** and lowly in heart, and **you will find rest for your souls.**

Matthew 11:30 For **my yoke is easy**, and **my burden is light.**”

1John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And **his commandments are not burdensome.**

Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the **mercies of God**, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, **holy** and **acceptable** to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the **will of God**, what is **good** and acceptable and perfect.

The world tells you that to be acceptable to God you have to perform, do some sort of “good” work. The truth is, because of God’s mercy towards us, made possible by Jesus death, we are already acceptable and holy and without blemish. Remind yourself of this constantly so when you serve others you will do so with freedom and joy.

Romans 12:9 Let love be **genuine**. Abhor what is **evil**; hold fast to what is **good**.

Romans 12:10 **Love one another** with **brotherly affection**. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility **count others more significant than yourselves.**

Romans 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, **serve the Lord.**

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, **work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,**

Romans 12:12 **Rejoice** in hope, be **patient** in tribulation, be **constant in prayer.**

Romans 12:13 **Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.**

Romans 12:14 **Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.**

Romans 12:15 **Rejoice** with those who rejoice, **weep** with those who weep.

Romans 12:16 **Live in harmony with one another.** Do not be **haughty**, but **associate with** the lowly. **Never be wise in your own sight.**

Romans 12:17 **Repay no one evil for evil**, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

Romans 12:18 **If possible, so far as it depends on you**, live peaceably with all.

Romans 12:19 Beloved, **never avenge yourselves**, but **leave it** to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, **I will repay**, says the Lord.”

When someone does something that is evil to you, truly evil, big or small do not avenge yourselves. Leave it to God who promises “I will repay” Every sin every committed will be punished, no exceptions. Either in Hell for eternity or on the cross for those who believe and repent.

1Peter 2:22 He (Jesus) committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

1Peter 2:23 When **he was reviled**, he did not revile in return; **when he suffered**, he did not threaten, **but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.**

Hebrews 4:15 **For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses**, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Romans 12:20 **To the contrary**, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”

1Peter 3:9 Do not **repay** evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, **bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.**

Luke 6:36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**

Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving** each other; as the Lord has **forgiven** you, so you also must **forgive.**

Romans 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Forgiveness and Repentance

Luke 23:34a And Jesus said, “Father, **forgive them**, for they know not what they do.”...

Matthew 3:8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

Luke 6:43 “For **no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit,**

Does God every allow others to avenge an injustice this side of eternity?
Justice vs. Mercy - between individuals and between God ordained institutions

We as individuals are to treat our enemies better than they deserve. Institutions, ordained by God, are called to have a different balance between justice and mercy.

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Proverbs 13:24 Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to **discipline** him.

2Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: **If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.**

Matthew 18:15 “If your brother **sins against you**, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. **If he listens to you**, you have gained your brother.

Matthew 18:16 But **if he does not listen**, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

Matthew 18:17 **If he refuses to listen** to them, tell it to the church. And **if he refuses to listen** even to the church, **let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector**.

Romans 13:1 Let every person be subject to the **governing authorities**. For there is **no authority except from God**, and **those that exist have been instituted by God**.

Romans 13:2 Therefore **whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed**, and **those who resist will incur judgment**.

Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to **good** conduct, but to **bad**. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is **good**, and you will receive his approval,

Romans 13:4 for **he is God’s servant** for your **good**. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. **For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer**.

Romans 13:5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to **avoid God’s wrath** but also for the sake of conscience.

Corrie Ten Boom Story

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