

REVENGE: THE TRAP

Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.
—ROMANS 12:17

[Read chapter 12, stopping at the heading "A Potential King Defiled."]

HOLDING ON TO AN OFFENSE OF UNFORGIVENESS IS LIKE HOLDING a debt against someone. When one person is wronged by another, he believes a debt is owed him. He expects payment of some sort, whether monetary or not. However, it is unrighteous for us as children of God to avenge ourselves.

Read the following scriptures, and then, in a phrase, summarize what they teach about revenge.

Romans 12:19

It is not for us to take revenge. It is God to avenge. There is power in the wrath of God.

James 4:12; 5:9

God is the only judge. If we complain about another we will be judged.

Matthew 5:38-42

God is telling us to take that pebble off our hearts and not hold on to grudges. If someone wants one thing give them 2. It releases a stronghold & brings peace.

Jesus eliminates any gray areas for grudges. In fact, He says that our attitude is to be so far removed from avenging ourselves that we are willing to open ourselves to the possibility of being taken advantage of again.

Dev 22

We are admonished to be rooted and grounded in the love of God.

Jesus likened the condition of our hearts to that of soil. We are admonished to be rooted and grounded in the love of God. We are eventually produce the fruit of righteousness—love, joy, long-suffering, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (See Galatians 5:22-23.)

However, ground will produce only what is planted in it. If we plant seeds of debt, unforgiveness, and offense, another root will spring up in place of the love of God. It is called the root of bitterness (Heb. 12:14-15). Bitterness is a root. If roots are nursed, watered, protected, fed, and given attention, they increase in depth and strength. If not dealt with quickly, roots are hard to pull up. The strength of the offense will continue to grow. Soon, instead of the fruit of righteousness being produced, we will see a harvest of anger, resentment, jealousy, hatred, strife, and discord. Jesus called these evil fruits worthless. (See Matthew 7:19-20.)

WRITE A PRAYER...

Thanking God that His peace has come into your life as a result of releasing the offenses that had blocked your heart.

*Thank you GOD for the beautiful Peace
that has come into my life as a
result of releasing the offenses
that had blocked my heart.*

Amen ♡

Assistants to leaders in a church often become offended by the person they serve. They soon become critical, experts at all that is wrong with their leader, or those he or she appoints. They become offended. Their sight is distorted. They see from a totally different perspective than God's.

Day 23

Complete the following sentences:

When people come to me with criticisms of church leadership, I do not listen to drama

When I am critical of church leadership, I am not critical. I don't speak negatively

The most effective way to handle offenses in the body of Christ is to pray and not take offense

Make a list of any people in the church who offend you, including the leadership. Write down their names, and then write down the date when you will go to them and ask forgiveness for your offense.

Name

None

When you will ask forgiveness

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2. Confess your hurt to the Lord.

Lord, I confess that I was hurt when people were
so insensitive of the crossing of my
family members.

3. Be open to His correction and direction.

Lord, I understand that You desire me to to follow
Your Word & forgive & learn by
example.

4. Finally, we must forgive the person(s) who hurt us.

Jesus, I forgive everyone
for hurting me.

The next exercise we face after we have forgiven someone is to avoid relapsing. Occasionally, we may find ourselves having to fight off some of the same thoughts we had about that person before we forgave him or her. The way we do this is to remember to pray for that person. These scriptures will help you know how to pray.

Read each scripture, and jot down the attitude God desires us to have in our hearts for those who hurt us.

Matthew 5:44

Love your enemies, Bless those who curse you,
and pray for those who spitefully use persecute you.

Psalm 35:11-14

To rise up though they reward me evil I do good
though I sacrificed for the sick continue to pray
& fast and their bows shall be broken.
Continue to be humble & the Lord will see
you through.

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Sometimes your observations about the weaknesses of church leadership are correct. Perhaps David should have taken action against Amnon. Perhaps a leader has areas of error. But who is the judge—you or the Lord? Remember that if you sow strife, you will reap it. The Holy Spirit convicts as He speaks through one's conscience. We must not ignore His conviction or quench His voice. If you have done this, repent before God and open your heart to His correction.

WRITE A PRAYER...

Asking God to remove a critical spirit from you.

Dear God, please remove a critical spirit from me and all the negativity that comes one & forgive me
Amen

cast down arguments & every high thing that exalts ^{just} against God's knowledge, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

Praying for the deepest needs of someone who has hurt you.
WRITE A PRAYER...

Dear John help them to know you & be obedient to you. fill their hearts with love & healing and may they feel your peace & experience their great love change their hearts so they may experience your true joy, peace & love.

Rank the following offenses that are the most difficult (1) to the least difficult (7) for you to forgive.

Day 21

- 7 Gossip against me
- 1 Someone physically or emotionally abusing me
- 1 Someone physically or emotionally abusing me
- 1 Someone lying to me
- 2 Someone stealing from me
- 8 Someone manipulating me
- Other _____

WRITE A PRAYER ...

Asking God to remove the blockage in your heart that has been caused by unforgiveness. Pray specifically for the individuals whose offenses caused the blockage.

Over 500. Please remove the blockages in my heart that have been caused by unforgiveness. I choose to forgive all. Amen