

Supernaturally Responding to Evil with Good

How does an authentic follower of Christ respond to his enemy?

Matthew 5:43-48

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

When, with Christ's power, I forgive the person that has hurt me, I am a living testimony that Jesus is God and that His message is true.

Romans 12:14-21

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1. _____ them.

a. Understand the _____ of forgiveness.

(1) I _____ to forgive.

(2) I am in the _____ of forgiving.

(3) I _____ forgiven.

If I bless those who hurt me, I am the person who will be free.

b. _____ with those who have hurt me.

- Great ministry happens when I identify with people in their _____ and in their _____.
- I am not letting them off the hook but pointing them to the _____.

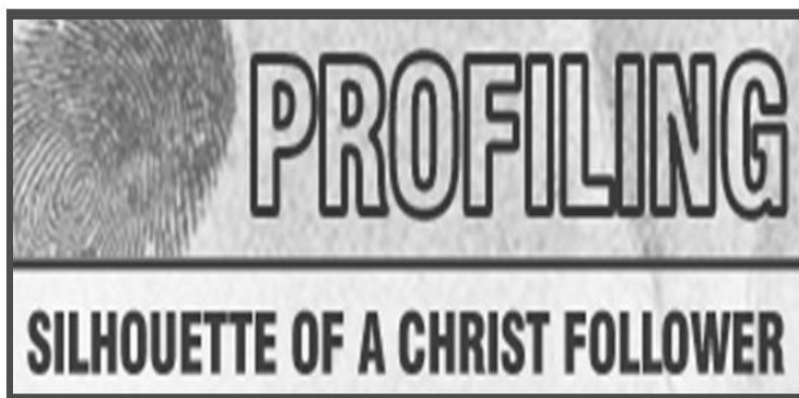
2. Don't take _____ on them.

- Personal retaliation usurps God's rule as _____.
- Personal retaliation is an ineffective means of _____.

I will never be more like God than when I respond with grace rather than reacting with revenge.

3. Expect a supernatural _____.

- Supernaturally responding to evil with good is a pathway to _____.



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