

You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" (Luke 9:54). They had just been on the Mount of Transfiguration and had seen their Lord with Moses and Elijah (vv.28-36). The account of Elijah and the fire from heaven must have come to their minds (1 Kings 18:36-39). But when they asked if they could call down fiery judgment on the Samaritans, Jesus rebuked them.

It is not our business to judge God's enemies. "'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord" (Romans 12:19). Our business is to tell the world, and even those who oppose us, about His offer of salvation.

Paul gave us these instructions: "'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink' . . . Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (vv.20-21). We must overwhelm evil opponents with love if we can, bring them to Jesus if they will come, and leave judgment with God. —DHR

It's easy to be kind and good
To those who show us love,
But loving those who won't respond
Takes grace from God above. —Sper

The best weapon to use against your *enemy* is love.



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

26 JANUARY, 2014

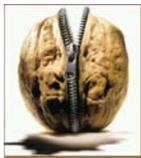
Overcome Evil With Good— by *David H. Roper*

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

As Jesus began to make His way to Jerusalem, He sent messengers ahead to prepare a Samaritan village along the way for His arrival. But the people there rejected Him.

When James and John heard about their refusal, they fumed, "Lord, do





Romans: Truth in a Nutshell

(unzipped for you)

Loving People III

(Proverbs 20:5) "Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, But a man of understanding will draw it out."

Romans 12:17-21 gives 4 helpful commands/responses in regard to difficult relationships:

1. Respond _____: Love is _____, verse 17,

(1 Corinthians 10:11) "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."

(Genesis 34:5) "And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter. Now his sons were with his livestock in the field; so Jacob held his peace until they came."

(Genesis 27:41-43) "So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "...I will kill my brother Jacob." {42} And the words of Esau .. were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob .., and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you. {43} "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran."

(Matthew 5:44-48) ""But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, {45} "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. {46} "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? {47} "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? {48} "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

(1 Peter 3:8-12) "Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; {9} not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. {10} For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. {11} Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. {12} For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.""



2. _____ close: Love makes _____, verse 18



3. See the _____: Love is _____ and _____, verses 19-20

(Revelation 20:12) "And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books."

(Romans 12:20) Instead, do what the Scriptures say: "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink, and they will be ashamed of what they have done to you." [paraphrase]



4. Live in _____: Love _____, verse 21

