

## ***Reciprocity:***

*treating others as they have treated me*

- What does reciprocity mean? Where does it happen?
- What is good about reciprocity?
- What happens when reciprocity encounters evil?
  - Reciprocity is **not** goodness
- How should the church live in a world that contains evil?

## **Overcoming Evil**

**Romans 12:1-21**

**Brown/English: Page 1137**

**White/Spanish: Page 1445**

**Red/Chinese: Page 1839**



## *Romans 12*

1-2:

9:

14:

15-16:

17-21:

### *God's response to good and evil*

- People's expectation  
God rewards good and punishes evil
  - “[God] does not keep the wicked alive  
but gives the afflicted their rights.  
He does not take his eyes off the righteous;  
he enthrones them with kings  
and exalts them forever.”

*Job 36:6-7 \*\**



### *God's response to good and evil*

- People's expectation  
God rewards good and punishes evil
- The surprise of God
  - “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**” *Romans 5:6-8*

### *God's response to good and evil*

- People's expectation  
God rewards good and punishes evil
- The surprise of God
  - **The Gospel:** God sacrificed Himself to give goodness to those who actually deserve judgment
  - Jesus became our sin so we could become His righteousness
    - **“Once His enemy, now seated at His table.”**
  - **God overcomes evil with good**

### *Romans 12*

1-2: God's mercy saves His enemies through self sacrifice  
 God's children are to be transformed to be like Jesus

9:

14:

15-16:

17-21:

### *Transformed by the Renewing of your Mind*

- What truth does the Bible state that is an important correction to what keeps running through your mind?
  - *Example problem:* self-judgment
  - *Example truth:* “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions.” *Ephesians 2:4-5*
  - B B O H G L F U G W I R I M M U A W C E W W  
W D I T
  - As you review, prayerfully think about the words



### *Romans 12*

1-2: God's mercy saves His enemies through self sacrifice

God's children are to be transformed to be like Jesus

9: Genuine love: embraces good and hates evil

14: Genuine love = blessing persecutors

- Not merely "don't curse them"

15-16: Genuine love = living as one **with** others

- Rejoicing in others' joy can be much harder
- Requires deep humility and contentment

17-21: Genuine love = taking action for the good of my enemies; commitment to pursuing peace

- Replace **reciprocity** with pursuing their good

### *The Big Idea*

As Christians,  
we are being transformed to be like Christ,  
responding to evil  
by overcoming it with good

### *Becoming like Jesus*

“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

‘He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.’

When they hurled their insults at him, **he did not retaliate**; when he suffered, **he made no threats**. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.”

*1 Peter 2:21-23*

### *Becoming like Jesus*

“When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, **‘Father, forgive them,** for they do not know what they are doing.’”

*Luke 23:33-34*



### *Application*

- How might you prepare for a marathon?
  - Run a lot!
  - Start with smaller practices and races
- How should we prepare for persecution?
  - Practice being faithful in smaller things
  - Chrysostom (preacher, 347-407 AD, Antioch)
    - Greetings in the marketplace

### *Application*

- Bless those who hurt you
  - Whether in your family or outside of it
  - Whether in the church or outside of it
  - Whether in your cultural group or outside of it
  - Not merely, “Don’t curse them”

### *Application*

- Bless those who hurt you → **How?**
  - Pray for them → not against them
    - That God would forgive them
    - That God would bless them with His blessing
  - Speak for their good
    - “Outdo one another in showing honor”
    - Never slander. Rather, defend their honor
    - → email+, conversations, ‘heart monologues’
  - Take action for their good
    - It will be richly rewarded!

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because **great is your reward in heaven.**

*Matthew 5:11-12*

**WHEN PEOPLE HURT YOU, THEY HAVE GIVEN YOU  
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GREAT REWARD IN HEAVEN!**

**AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW GOD'S GLORY!**



*The Big Idea*

As Christians,  
we are being transformed to be like Christ,  
responding to evil  
by overcoming it with good

**WHAT IS YOUR REPUTATION WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER EVIL?**

**WHAT IS OUR REPUTATION WHEN WE ENCOUNTER EVIL?**

**WHERE DO YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN  
A GREAT HEAVENLY REWARD TODAY?**