

Journey in Discipleship

Year One: What Do We Believe??

Year Two: What Do We Do??

How do we practically live out what we believe?

How do you meet Jesus personally? Key Word: Meditation

How do you meet Jesus with others? Key Word: Worship

How do you relate to other Christians? Key Word: Member

How do you relate to those who hurt you? Key Word:
Forgiveness



How Do You Relate to Those Who Hurt

- Who Is Your Enemy??
- Why Does Revenge Feel so Right??
- How Do You Defeat the Evil of Your Enemy??



How Do You Relate to Those Who Hurt

Who Is Your Enemy??

Anyone who...

...intentionally harms you (gossip, slander, violence)

...unwittingly harms you

Often involves patterns of relating that are so deeply ingrained that one does not think or plan harm but acts harmfully

Eg. Marriage, “pushing a person’s buttons”

How you relate to your enemy is really important so you don't become a “wraith”, but also because How you respond has the power to deeply change your enemy



How Do You Relate to Those Who Hurt

Why Does Revenge Feel So Right???

Maybe there is something RIGHT about vengeance....
...OR Is vengeance intrinsically evil???

Romans 12:19 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.

Vengeance is part of God's character...His perfect justice which will see all evil destroyed, all wrongs righted and all beauty restored

Your deep desire for justice reflects the imprint of God's image

There is nothing inherently wrong with hating evil, desiring wrong to be righted and a sinless, beautiful order restored



How Do You Relate to Those Who Hurt

Why Does Revenge Feel So Right???

There is nothing inherently wrong with hating evil, desiring wrong to be righted and a sinless, beautiful order restored

But you must never become a vigilante...

... leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge: I will repay," says the Lord. (Romans 12:19)

- Because the guarantee of God's justice avenged is a safeguard to your heart against evil in you & evil against others (Mirslov Volf)

- Because you are a very inadequate judge

Only God is qualified ...He alone is perfect (there is no injustice in Him)
...He alone knows everything about the offender & what they deserve



How Do You Relate to Those Who Hurt

How Do You Defeat the Evil of Your Enemy??

Romans 12:20 - 21 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." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Only GOOD has the power to overcome evil before judgment...

...it is a powerful force God uses to surprise & conquer evil

Speak Good... "Bless those who persecute you; bless & do not curse" (Rom. 12:14)

Redeeming words that are deeply concerned to see evil undone and beauty enhanced (Rom. 12:9)

Do Good... "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink." (Rom. 12:20)



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How Do You Defeat the Evil of Your Enemy??

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Only GOOD has the power to overcome evil before judgment...

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“Heaping burning coals on his head”

Speaking & doing good has the power to conquer evil and deeply change your enemy

...Gives your enemy a taste of life that draws them to hunger what they've been created for and repels them from what will destroy them



How Do You Relate to Those Who Hurt

How Do You Defeat the Evil of Your Enemy??

Romans 12:17 Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

- Doing what is right starts inside you...
 Don't pretend that you don't desire revenge
 Let your hatred of evil in another soften your sensitivity to evil in yourself
- “Be careful” = plan ahead for what your response will be

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

You are to pursue peace by doing good...BUT you do not control the other person's response



How Do You Relate to Those Who Hurt

How Do You Defeat the Evil of Your Enemy??

Romans 12:19 Do not take revenge, my friends (*my beloved*)

The good news of you're being beloved is the story of God's vengeance....His just wrath exhausted on his Son in your place

Let the urge to repay press your heart to worship the Son who paid so dearly for you
...and to trust Him who poured a new source of divine life in you

