

HOW TO
DO GOOD
TO YOUR
ENEMY

BY: MARCUS YOUNG

LOVE
YOUR
ENEMY



1 CONFRONT YOUR REVENGE

Sometimes we really want revenge. It feels right. It feels satisfying to consider. But revenge never actually satisfies us after the fact. This is a strong reason why Romans 12:19 advises us to leave revenge to God.

Our feelings are real, and we need to confront them. If you are so angry that you really want to kill someone or make them hurt, admit it openly to God. He already knows anyway. Tell Jesus how you really feel right now. Release some frustration to his throne of grace, and then we can explore how to take healthy action with our enemies in the following pages.

Our actions should not be led by passive aggression, bitterness, self-righteousness, guilt or obligation. Submit any of these unhealthy motivations to our Lord before you continue.

Romans 12:19

That moment when you feel hatred for your enemy bubbling up inside, pause and look to Jesus' guidance for facing violence, disaster, persecution and hatred in Luke 21:12-19.

- Look for the **divine wisdom** – Jesus promises us the right words to speak (Luke 21:15).
- **Remember** God knows it already – Even the smallest detail of your difficult situation is in God's attentive care and grace (Luke 21:18).
- Be **patient** – This is a wonderful time for you to experience God's gift of salvation working in you (Luke 21:19). Your greatest power to change a situation is letting God change you!

Luke 21:12-19

2

PAUSE

Try on all three different sets of shoes to gain perspective on the conflict or disagreement with your enemy:

Their
Perspective

God's
Perspective

Your
Perspective

3

**FIND A
NEW
PERSPECTIVE**

**Kingdom
Perspective:**

We are living inside a raging spiritual war. Our battleground is never people, but the systems and spiritual powers behind their slavery to evil.

OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD 4

*Do not be overcome by evil,
but overcome evil with good
(Romans 12:21)*

hold your ground,
be defensive,
and protect

take new ground,
go on offense,
be powerful and win

What does it mean to **overcome**?

I may not feel powerful but my handful of faith is enough: "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith" (1 John 5:4).

Have faith that your small actions of good create a power shift within the spiritual realm. Doing good for your enemies becomes a power encounter of God's love to their heart.

Did you know that by your simple “yes” to Jesus Christ you were re-created for good works?

Did you know God has already done advance planning and prepared for you to take action?

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

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**LOOK FOR
GOOD WORKS
GOD HAS
ALREADY PROVIDED**

It's time to make an action step list. But before we identify the good actions we want to take, let's make sure we are really thinking about our enemy, and their needs and hurts. Ask yourself these questions and journal your thoughts:

- What problems are they facing that I could help solve?
- What hurts are in their life that God might want to touch?
- How would I like to be served or helped if I was them?

**QUESTIONS
TO ASK
YOURSELF**

6

IDENTIFY SOME GOOD ACTIONS

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Now, make a list of 2-4 actions you could take that would show God's goodness your enemy. Here are some ideas, but find a few that your enemy will actually see as good and kind.

- A warm smile
- A small gift
- A meal or drink that they really love
- A gentle touch or a hug
- A moment to really listen
(your undivided attention)
- A kind prayer
- A note of appreciation or thanks
- Acknowledgment of their success
- Help someone they love
(a friend or family member)
- Extra effort to please
(with no need of thanks)
- A nice compliment
- Meditate on their high value —
like Jesus did from the cross
(see Hebrews 12:2)
- Assist or serve them
- Identify a problem they have and
offer to help

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FILTER YOUR GOOD

Use Philippians 4:8 to filter your good actions:

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

True Root your action in the truth that you are a son/daughter of the Father. (Matt 5:45)

Honorable How honorably will society perceive your action? (Romans 12:17)

Just Does your action make you feel bold? (Pro 28:1)

Pure Is your action good enough to possibly silence an enemy's complaint or anger? (1 Peter 2:15)

Lovely Will this action be considered "good news" by your enemy? (Isaiah 52:7)

Commendable Is this an action you could brag about in heaven? (Matt 7:21)

Excellent Does this action feel like the best you have to give, the most excellent? (Romans 13:3)

Praiseworthy Do you think holy angels would want to celebrate this? (Luke 15:7)

Good acts are meant to be expressed in a company of good people:

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works” (Hebrews 10:24).

“And we know that for those [plural] who love God all things work together for good, for those [plural] who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Do you already have a community that participates in good works with you? If so, propose a new action for this group to love your enemy together. If not, find a community that you can work with to love some enemies.

By the Holy Spirit’s powerful partnership, one day these enemies could be friends in your community.



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CREATE A DEADLINE

You were rescued in God's amazing mercy, it's time to acknowledge this and devote yourself to acts of mercy.

Don't be passive, take action now and do good for your enemy!

Set yourself a deadline for each action you want to take. Use your calendar, reminders on your phone, and your community to help hold you accountable to this.

These goals are important and we don't want to let our good intentions fall through the cracks and never become actions. Imagine how amazing the church could be if "Jesus believers" become "Jesus followers" in doing good for our enemies. Be a true follower today!