

**LOVE**  
 Without Hypocrisy  
 (in the book of Romans)

**57 – Vengeance – Judging**



**It's NOT that JUDGMENT and JUSTICE are wrong.**

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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.  
 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."  
Romans 12:19-20 (NIV)

***The issue is who does it, how and when.***

**The KEY FOCUS of this passage**

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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.  
 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink."  
Romans 12:19-20 (NIV)

**Are you controlled by a spirit of REVENGE... or of LOVE?**

**What should control us, according to Romans 12:19-20?**

- **Revenge? NO!** (v. 19)
- **Love? YES!** (v. 20)

**This verse has to do with**

**JUSTICE...**

**But there are many dimensions to the concept of "justice."**

**TO BEGIN, HERE IS SOME TERMINOLOGY...**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ JUSTICE</li> <li>▪ JUDGING</li> <li>▪ VINDICATION</li> <li>▪ VENGEANCE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ VINDICTIVE</li> <li>▪ VENGEFUL</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <b>THIS IS WHAT V. 19 OPPOSES</b> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AVENGE &amp; REVENGE</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">                 The <i>context</i> determines their significance.             </div>
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**THESE ARE GOOD CONCEPTS!**  
 (Except for when people distort them.)

- **JUSTICE** – Giving to each person what he rightfully deserves, based on what he has done.

The Lord loves righteousness and **justice**;  
the earth is full of his unfailing love.

Psalms 33:5 (NIV)

I will sing of your love and **justice**.  
I will praise you, Lord, with songs.

Psalms 101:1 (NLT)

**Did you know that LOVE and JUSTICE go together?**

- **JUDGING** – Determining what is right or wrong, in the pursuit of justice.

For you have upheld my right and my cause;  
you have sat on your throne, **judging**  
righteously.

Psalms 9:4 (NIV)

"The time has come for **judging** the dead,  
and for rewarding your servants ..."

Revelation 11:18b (NIV)

**God's people have no reason to fear judging.  
It's the wicked who don't like it!**

- **VINDICATION** – Proving that someone is in the right (especially if false accusations have been made).

**Vindicate** me, O God, and plead my case against an  
ungodly nation;

O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!

Psalms 43:1 (NASB)

**Vindicate** me, O LORD, for I have walked in my  
integrity,  
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

Psalms 101:1 (NLT)

**The wicked may attack, but God's people will be vindicated.**

- **VENGEANCE** – Inflicting punishment on someone, because of the wrong he has done.

Let me see your **vengeance** against [my persecutors],  
for I have committed my cause to you.

Jeremiah 20:12b (NLT)

That day belongs to the Almighty Lord of Armies.

It is a day of **vengeance** when he will take revenge on  
his enemies.

Jeremiah 46:10a (GW)

**Only the wicked (who refuse to repent) have to fear God's vengeance.**

## NOT THE SAME AS...

- **VINDICTIVE** and **VENGEFUL** – Given to revenge; eager to punish, and often done in a spiteful way.

All we hear are the taunts of our mockers.  
All we see are our **vengeful** enemies.

Psalms 44:16 (NLT)

**THIS IS WHAT V. 19 OPPOSES**

- **REVENGE** and **AVENGE**

(The context of these words determines their significance.)

## DOES ROMANS 12:19 TELL US TO LET EVIL GO UNRESTRAINED?

Do not take revenge, my friends, ...

Romans 12:19a (NIV)

**NO! This verse focuses on punishment,  
and applies only to specific situations.**

- **"JUDGING"** – the wider concept  
(Determining what is right or wrong.)
- **"PUNISHING"** – the narrower concept  
(Giving what is due for wrongs committed.)

## WHO'S JOB IS IT TO JUDGE? WHO'S JOB IS IT TO PUNISH?

### 1) GOD (both judging and punishing)

God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

Eccles. 12:14 (NLT)

"I will punish you because of the evil things you have done," declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 21:14a (GW)

### 2) GOD'S DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES

❖ Church, government, parents.

❖ **But only in the ways indicated in scripture.**

#### • Church (both judging and punishing involved here)

When you gather together in the name of our Lord Jesus, and I am with you in spirit, along with the power of our Lord Jesus, turn this [unrepentant] man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 11:4-5 (NET)

#### • Government (both judging and punishing involved here)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except by God's appointment, and the authorities that exist have been instituted by God.

So the person who resists such authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will incur judgment...

Romans 13:1-2 (NET)

#### • Parents (both judging and punishing involved here)

A youngster's heart is filled with foolishness, but discipline will drive it away.

Proverbs 22:15 (NLT)

To discipline and reprimand a child produces wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined child.

Proverbs 29:15 (NLT)

### 3) INDIVIDUALS – Are they supposed to JUDGE?

**YES!**

- ✓ Even individuals are to judge the difference between right and wrong!
- ✓ There will be times they have to apply those judgments to others... but they must first apply them to themselves.

OTHERWISE, THEY DESERVE THIS JUDGMENT!

AND THEY DO NOT HAVE "UNHYPOCRITICAL LOVE"!

**You hypocrite!** First remove the beam from your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Matthew 7:5 (NET)

#### • Individuals judging themselves

But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

1 Cor. 11:31 (NIV)

#### • An individual's conscience judging the individual

Their consciences speak to them. Their thoughts accuse them on one occasion and defend them on another.

Romans 2:15b (GW)

- An individual judging another person

If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

Matthew 18:15 (NIV)

If another believer sins, rebuke him; then if he repents, forgive him.

Luke 17:3b (NLT)

- Telling others about the GOOD NEWS – this also involves judging them.

Every expression of the Good News is also an expression of judgment.

[God] commands all people everywhere to repent.

Acts 17:30b (NIV)

GOD SENT JESUS TO SUFFER YOUR DESERVED PUNISHMENT! SO REPENT!

THOSE WHO REPENT THAT'S GOOD NEWS!

THOSE WHO REFUSE TO REPENT STOP JUDGING ME AND TELLING ME I MUST CHANGE!

Every expression of the Good News is also an expression of judgment.

- Perhaps this is one of the reasons so few people are being saved today.



I DON'T WANT TO BE ACCUSED OF "JUDGING," SO I SILENTLY "WITNESS."

BUT GOD SAYS... How can they hear if no one tells the Good News?

Romans 10:14 (GW)

Those who criticize and condemn you when you obey such Scripture passages are only telling you about themselves.

So don't bother rebuking mockers; they will only hate you. But the wise, when rebuked, will love you all the more.

Proverbs 9:8 (NLT)

Don't waste your breath on fools, for they will despise the wisest advice.

Proverbs 23:9 (NLT)

Whoever stubbornly refuses to accept criticism will suddenly be broken beyond repair.

Proverbs 29:1 (NLT)

3) INDIVIDUALS – Are they supposed to PUNISH?

TOTAL # OF VERSES WE COULD FIND TO SUPPORT A "YES" ANSWER: { [blank]. }

★ APPARENTLY, IT'S "NOT YOUR JOB!" ★  
AS AN INDIVIDUAL

Unless you're doing it in the role of a designated authority (examples already shown).

# Your Mission...

**AS INDIVIDUALS...**  
make a distinction between the various aspects of judging.

**DO** THE ASPECTS THAT SCRIPTURE REQUIRES YOU TO DO; AVOID THE REST.

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# Your Mission...

**"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."  
Romans 12:19**

## WHAT did JESUS do?

### ***JUDGING AND PUNISHING AT JESUS' FIRST COMING***

Jesus came into a world of people who were *already* judged and destined to be recipients of God's wrath. His purpose for coming was to rescue - to save - some of these people from this wrath. (This would include *all* who would repent of their sin - the sin that earned the wrath - and who would then become Jesus' followers - people willing to learn his values and follow his example.

Though *does* Scripture contain examples of Jesus judging and condemning people at his first coming (especially the religious leaders), his greater focus was on other matters - including taking upon himself the judgment that we - his followers - deserve.

### **Some verses related to Jesus's judging (or not judging).**

- He was *not* sent into the world to condemn the world, but to save it - John 3:17; 12:47. The world was *already* condemned - John 3:18.
- On the cross, Jesus left the issue of judging to the Father - 1 Peter 2:23.

- Jesus did not condemn the woman caught in adultery - John 8:10-11. This was because: 1) Scripture requires 2-3 witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15) - and Jesus (as a human) was *not* a witness. Also, 2) the sin of the leaders was greater than the sin of the woman; for adultery requires *two* individuals, and they did not bring the *man* to Jesus for punishment... just the woman (John 8:3+). (They also had evil motives - verse 6.)
- There are other verses which *do* describe Jesus as coming to bring judgment: on people - John 9:39; on the devil - John 12:31.
- Matthew 23 is an example of Jesus judging the religious leaders. There are many examples in the book of John. He also exercised his right to punish, when he drove the merchants and money changers from the temple - John 2:14-15.
- Even when Jesus did *not* judge, he had authority to do so - John 5:22, 27; 8:26.

### ***JUDGING AND PUNISHING AT JESUS' SECOND COMING***

At his second coming, Jesus will come as judge over *all* - not only to evaluate what is right and wrong, but to punish or reward, as appropriate, each individual for what he has done.

### **Some verses related to Jesus's judging.**

- He will come and judge the world; and the *fact* of his resurrection is a guarantee that this will happen - Acts 17:31.
- The future judgment should influence even our views of our *good* conduct - 1 Corinthians 4:4. God sees people's hidden motives - something that we do not have the authority or the ability to judge - 1 Corinthians 4:3, 5.
- The final judgment will have permanent consequences - Revelation 20:12-15.