



# The Response of Grace

**Romans 12:14-21**

# Our Grace Response to All

- Christians must not only overcome hating and retaliating but are commanded to bless those who do.
- Agape love is something that is unnatural to the world.
- We are not to desire the outpouring of divine vengeance on our persecutors, we but are to bless them, desiring their salvation.
- A comforter's ability to help is in his capacity to be sympathetic rather than in his talent for using words.
- Helping others in distress begins by sharing the pain.

# Our Grace Response to Enemies

- Retaliation and revenge are forbidden to the followers of Jesus.
- Vindictiveness is the desire to get even with someone for a wrong suffered.
- Short of compromising God's truth and standards, we should be willing to go to great lengths to build peaceful bridges to those who hate and harm us.
- It takes wisdom to know when making your point is useful to the other person; and when it just feeds their desire to have a conflict.
- God's wrath is a last resort, not a first option.

# Our Victory of Grace

- We are to minister to our enemy which may be more difficult than not retaliating.
- Forgiveness breaks the cycle of retaliation and opens the way for reconciliation.
- When we love our enemy and sincerely seek to meet his needs, his conscience will shame him for his hatred.
- A Christian must not play God and try to avenge himself.
- Our own evil responding is infinitely more detrimental to us than the evil done to us by others.

# Conclusion

- A follower of Jesus is commanded to return good for evil.
- The person who thinks he must repay every angry look he sees or repay any hurtful deed that's directed toward him will have a never-ending and profitless job.
- As heirs of the grace of God, we should be gracious in our attitude toward others.
- To live like Christ is not natural; it's supernatural.

