

Relationship 101: The Power of Good Romans 12:17-21

- Every relationship will have difficult moments.
- Matthew 5:44 - ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.
- First concept: No Paybacks.
- Romans 12:17 - ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.
- Think ahead good before all men.
- Get rid of payback thinking; plan good.
- Second concept: Peace, if possible.
- ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
- Are you seeking peace in relationships? Are there relationships in your life right now where peace is not possible?
- Concept 3: Remember God has the last word.
- ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.
- "When am I the difficult person?"
- Where do I need to let go and remember God has the last word?
- Fourth concept: The power of good.
- ²⁰ 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."
²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good
- "We clean the wounds of those who hate us and those who would kill us."
- Has Jesus changed you so you can do good?
- Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.

Starter Question: In your experience, what type of person is difficult for you to relate to?

1. Read Romans 12:17-21
2. In your opinion, why does the idea of payback sound so good? Does it work out that way?
3. In your experience, when is it not possible to be at peace with people?
4. When you are most likely to be the difficult person in a relationship?
5. Is there a relationship that you need to let God have the last word in?
6. When have you seen the power of good change a difficult person?