

An aerial photograph of a zebra crossing on a city street. The crossing consists of alternating black and white horizontal stripes. Several pedestrians are walking across the crossing. In the top left, the lower legs and feet of two people are visible. In the top right, a man in a striped shirt and khaki pants is walking, looking down at his phone. In the middle left, a person in a light green shirt and dark pants is walking, carrying a white bag. In the middle right, a person in a black t-shirt and dark shorts is walking, carrying a brown bag. In the bottom left, a person in a white t-shirt and dark shorts is walking. In the bottom middle, a person in a plaid shirt and light pants is walking, carrying a bag. In the bottom right, a person is walking, holding a blue patterned umbrella. The shadows of the pedestrians are cast onto the white stripes of the crossing, indicating a bright, sunny day.

LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

**“Pleasing God with How We Relate to One Another”
Part III**

I THESSALONIANS 5:15

Revenge is “inflicting hurt or harm on someone else who hurt or harmed you.”

- a. On Sexual Purity (4:3-8)
- b. On Loving the Brethren (4:9-12)
- c. On the Reality of Future Events (4:13-18)
- d. On the Day of the Lord (5:1-11)

Ways We Please God

e. On How We Relate to One Another (12-22)

1. On How We Recognize Leaders (5:12-13)
2. On Shepherding Others (5:14)
- 3. *On Nonretaliation (5:15)***
4. On Rejoicing (5:16)
5. On Regular Prayer (5:17)
6. On Gratitude (5:18)
7. On Testing the Spirits (5:19-22)

Ways We Please God

KEY POINT:

We please God by showing kindness to those who are not kind to us.

I. Put off retaliation (vs. 15a).

- From the Greek word meaning “to pay back, to give back”
- Giving back in the same manner in which something was received
- Not the same as avenge, which is paying back for the sake of another

The Word “Repay”

*that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because **the Lord is an avenger** in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.*

I Thessalonians 4:6

O LORD, *God of vengeance,*
O *God of vengeance,* shine forth!

Psalm 94:1

*Beloved, never avenge yourselves,
but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written,
“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”*

Romans 12:19

*The LORD is a jealous and **avenging God**;
the LORD is avenging and wrathful;
the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries
and keeps wrath for his enemies.*

Nahum 1:2

*“Rejoice with him, O heavens;
bow down to him, all gods,
for **he avenges** the blood of his children
and takes vengeance on his adversaries.
He repays those who hate him
and cleanses his people’s land.”*

Deuteronomy 32:43

*When he was reviled, he did not revile in return;
when he suffered, he did not threaten,
but continued entrusting himself to him who
judges justly.*

I Peter 2:23

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said,
‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’
⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who
persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who
is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the
good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you
have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?
⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing
than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

Matthew 5:43-47

- Exodus 21:23-25; Leviticus 24:19-20;
Deuteronomy 19:21
- A role for governing authorities

“Eye for An Eye”

*for he is God's servant for your good.
But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not
bear the sword in vain.
For he is the servant of God,
an avenger who carries out God's wrath
on the wrongdoer.*

Romans 13:4

A key idea to understanding why revenge is a forbidden practice for Christians:

Revenge upon another is a failure to trust God.

*Do not say, “I will repay evil”;
wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you.*

Proverbs 20:22

I. Put off retaliation (vs. 15a).

II. Put on goodness (vs. 15b).

or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

I Peter 2:14

- From the Greek word meaning “to hunt, to pursue, to follow with eagerness”
- A relentless pursuit
- Acts 26:11; Revelation 12:13

The Word “Seek”

*21 If your enemy is hungry,
give him bread to eat,
and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink,
22 for you will heap burning coals on his head,
and the LORD will reward you.*

Proverbs 25:21-22

1. With forgiveness

2. With patience

2 Ways to Measure | Thessalonians 5:15

“Consider how you daily
wrong God,
and you will not be so
easily inflamed with
revenge against others
who have wronged you.”



John Flavel

*Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good.
Whoever does good is from God;
whoever does evil has not seen God.*

III John 11