



Hednesford
Salvation Army
Corps and Community Centre

Don't Play the Game

Don't Play the Game

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Don't Be Crazy / Discipleship; Love; Revenge; Grace and Union / Romans 12:9–21
Grace Stops

Objective

Every person can deal with those who drive them crazy by choosing to respond with grace.

How do you respond to someone who drives you crazy?

Revenge is part of human nature. But God calls us to be different. In our passage, Paul teaches us that if we don't want to be crazy, then we have to react differently to those difficult people in our lives:

Romans 12:9-21, NLT

Don't play the payback game

Romans 12:14 NLT

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.

Perhaps this verse would be more applicable to you, if you replaced the words 'persecute you' with 'drive you crazy'. 'Bless those who drive you crazy'.

Paul says, get off the revenge roundabout:

Romans 12:17 NLT

¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honourable.

Paul, of course, is simply following Jesus' teaching:



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Luke 6:27–28 NLT

²⁷ “But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you.

²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.

Not only should we refrain from cursing them, but we should actually pray for their blessing. Why? Because taking revenge on someone who is difficult is simply paying back evil with more evil.

Paul says, instead choose your response:

Romans 12:20 NLT

²⁰ Instead, “If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.”

Choose your response

You can choose to show grace:

Romans 12:17 NRSV

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

Showing grace like this is impossible without the Holy Spirit enabling us to do so. But our will is involved.

You have no control over difficult people and those who drive you up the wall. But you do have to choose your response.

You can refuse to play the game.