

“Don’t rejoice when your enemies fall; don’t be happy when they stumble. For the Lord will be displeased with you and will turn his anger away from them.” Proverbs 24:17-18

“Don’t testify against your neighbors without cause; don’t lie about them. And don’t say, ‘Now I can pay them back for what they’ve done to me! I’ll get even with them!’” Proverbs 24:28-29

“PAY BACK” [VENGEANCE] – An injured party's desire for retribution, retaliation, or repayment on account of an injury or an offense.

God’s Word has a lot to say about how we are to _____ one another

Vengeance is God’s _____ – He reserves for Himself the right to avenge

“O Lord, the God of vengeance, O God of vengeance, let your glorious justice shine forth!” Psalm 94:1

“The Lord is a jealous God, filled with vengeance and rage. He takes revenge on all who oppose him and continues to rage against his enemies! The Lord is slow to get angry, but his power is great, and he never lets the guilty go unpunished.” Nahum 1:2-3

God is the ultimate _____

“It is God alone who judges; he decides who will rise and who will fall.” Psalm 75:7

“He [God] is the true judge.” John 8:50

“God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?” James 4:12

“All justice is ultimately in the hand and the heart of God.”

God never takes vengeance from _____ motives

“The vengeance of God is not some irrational burst of divine anger, but rather the exercise of divine justice. God’s vengeance is, therefore, a righteous expression of his justice.”

The Bible tells us to _____ take revenge; when we take revenge, we’re putting ourselves in God’s place

“When you or I attempt to avenge ourselves, we can’t do it without bringing sin into it. We tend to do it with a wicked spirit of vindictiveness and revenge.”

“Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, ‘I will take revenge; I will pay them back,’ says the Lord. 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.’ Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.” Romans 12:19-21 (Deut. 32:35; Heb. 10:30)

“Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing.” 1 Peter 3:9

God’s love is seen in our _____ to love and forgive

“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.” Matthew 7:12

“See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people.” 1 Thessalonians 5:15

“Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.” Romans 12:18

There is _____ a fitting time to seek revenge because God will always bring about justice for His people

“You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also.” Matthew 5:38-39

“Causing another person harm will never undo the harm we have already endured.”

“The desire for revenge is natural, but it is something we must offer to God.”

“We don’t have to carry anger, bitterness, resentment, and revenge. In fact, we dare not. Jesus warned that an unforgiving heart will destroy us in the end.”