

Marks of a Christian – Part 7

Romans 12:17-18

a. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

- a. Consider this personally – it is not meant to address the law of the land. Paul will have some things to say about government in chapter 13.
- b. If someone does evil to you, there are four possible responses:
 - i. Vindictiveness – hurt them more than they hurt you.
 - ii. Retaliation - treat them the same way.
 - iii. Disdain – ignore them and have nothing to do with them.
 - iv. Love them and serve them – Christ’s way.
 1. A farmer bought a farm. Almost immediately he was approached by the neighboring farmer who asked him if he had indeed bought the farm. The new owner confirmed the purchase and the neighbor immediately became hostile. “Well,” he said, “You just bought yourself a lawsuit because your fence is fully ten feet inside my property.” “No need for a court case,” the new owner said, “let’s go up and move that fence right now.” “Do you really mean that?” said the neighbor. He was assured the new owner meant it. “Well, in that case the fence stays.” What about that? The new owner wouldn’t return belligerence for belligerence and gained for them both.
- c. but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.
 - i. “give thought” - plan ahead; think things through first.
 - ii. 2 Cor. 8:20-21- 20 We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, 21 for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man.
 1. (Paul took Titus with him to deliver funds to saints in Jerusalem).

b. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

- a. What situation would make it impossible for you to live peaceably?
 - i. We could not compromise what is honorable, true, and right in order to make peace.
- b. Psalm 34:14 - Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
- c. Psalm 120:6-7 - **6** Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace. **7** I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war!