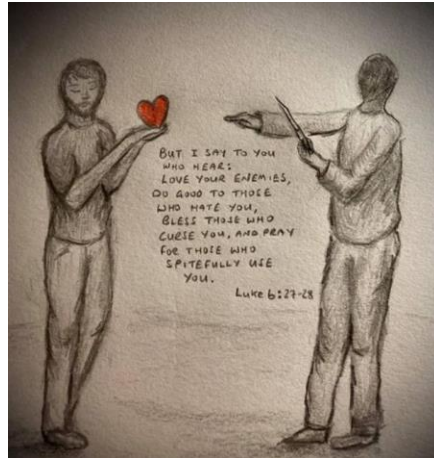


VICTORY OVER EVIL



"But I say to you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you..... Do good and lend, expecting nothing in return." (Luke 6)

"Do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, let him slap your left cheek too." (Matthew 5)

Let's face it, how many good Christians actually believe this stuff? Maybe they talk like that in church, but when Monday morning comes, they're out there fighting to survive like everyone else.

Was Jesus out of touch with the real world? Or are we?

Jesus gives us this teaching, not so we can be little museum specimens of namby pamby Christianity, but because, once we have been redeemed by his cross....

.... This is the only kind of life that works.

It's in harmony with the spiritual laws of God's universe.

It rides through storms.

It comes through fire.

It's a life, not of weakness, but of unspeakable power.



"Love your enemies"

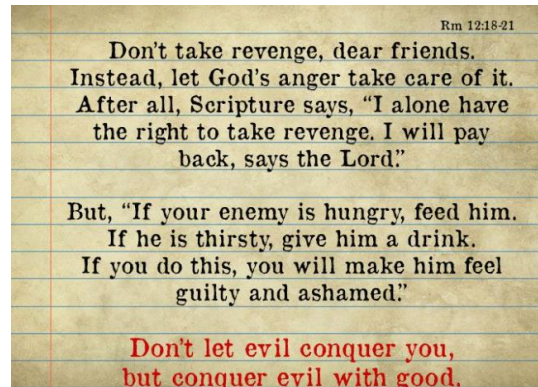
"Do good to those who hate you"

"Do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you"

Jesus isn't laying down rigid laws....

He's showing the way to victory over evil...

.... over evil spirits, evil men, an evil culture.



"Don't Let evil conquer you, but conquer evil with good"

This is the kind of life his Spirit empowers us to live.

A life so rooted and grounded in God's love that it doesn't get bent out of shape over every wrong done against it.

Walk this road of mercy, and Salvation will no longer be an empty word. It will be Christ's life.... burning inside you like a flame, flowing from you like a river.....

....spreading healing everywhere you go.



Prayer: Oh Lord, how we so need victory over all that is evil. So many times we allow ourselves to be overcome by evil by playing right into Satan's schemes and taking matters into our own hands and avenging ourselves. May we be repulsed by the need to take revenge. Open our hearts to your way of confronting evil....with goodness, with mercy, with love. Empower us to choose to love our enemies, to do good to those who wrong and hate us, to bless them and not to curse them, and to conquer evil with good. Oh, that we would grasp this enormous weapon, this truth that releases your beautiful, holy, redemptive power into the ugliness around us. And yes, when confronted with wrongs, hurts, and injustices that we would be so rooted in your mercy and your love that your goodness burns within us and flows from us spreading healing wherever we go. Amen.

Message: Richard E. Bieber 2003 aka How to Be A Wimp In Three Easy Lessons

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