

'Just as charcoal and wood keep a fire going, a quarrelsome person keeps an argument going.' Proverbs 26:21 NCV

5. I will not be _____ by them.

'Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil.'

Romans 14:16 NIV

'You let people make slaves of you and cheat you and steal from you.

Why, you even let them strut around and slap you in the face.'

2 Corinthians 11:20 CEV

'You even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face.'

2 Corinthians 11:20 NIV

'We have freedom now, because Christ made us free. So stand strong.

Do not change and go back into the slavery of the law.'

Galatians 5:1 NCV

6. I will always do the _____ thing.

'Ask God to bless those who persecute you—yes, ask him to bless, not to curse.' Romans 12:14 TEV

'If someone has done you wrong, do not repay him with a wrong. Try to do what everyone considers to be good. Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.' Romans 12:17-18 TEV

'Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.'

Romans 12:21 NIV

'When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies live at peace with him.' Proverbs 16:7 NIV



1. How does God describe the contrast between a foolish person and a wise person in Proverbs 12:16?
2. According to Proverbs 10:12, overlooking wrongs that others do is an act of love. This is likely the opposite of our initial feelings toward being wronged. What are some methods we can use to keep ourselves from being offended when a difficult person tries to insult us?
3. Our Spiritual maturity develops through becoming like Christ in character. Refusing to be offended is an act of love and an example of taking the higher ground when insulted. How we treat a difficult person who insults us is what really matters to God. What attitude do we need to adopt to overcome the tendency to take difficult peoples' insults personally?
4. What types of commitments could you make to be prepared for any difficult person you may encounter in the coming week? What practices could you change in attitude by showing them grace instead of anger?
5. Read Romans 12:9-21. What stands out in this passage. Romans 12:14, the people who "persecute" you are the difficult people in your life. What is your first reaction when you read this instruction from Paul? Who benefits when we follow this advice, and why?
6. You can never control other people, but you always have full control over how you react to them. Why would God want us to avoid being manipulated by others, and not let other people control us?
7. Read Romans 12:21. Discuss why real love means loving unlovable people – the difficult people in our lives. What did Jesus show us about this?
8. God's people are to be meek, but "meekness" means having strength under control, not "weakness." What is this slavery that Jesus set us free from? See Galatians 5:1. How does giving in to difficult people keep us from enjoying the freedom God intended for us?

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