



How to Respond to Grace

God's plan for Grace and Justice in Society, part 2

GRACE

(forgiveness and ministry)

Interpersonal

Romans 12:17-21

Always

JUSTICE

(correction and punishment)

Institutional

Romans 13:1-4

Discretionary

FAMILY

Marriage

Ephesians 5:25-32

Family, Church, State, God

Children

Ephesians 6:4

Parents, Family, Church, State, God

Parents

Ephesians 6:2

Family, Church, State, God

Others

Matthew 18:15-35

Family, Church, State, God

CHURCH

Members

Matthew 18:15-35

Church, State, God

Leaders

Matthew 18:15-35

Church, State, God

Others

Matthew 18:15-35

Church, State, God

STATE

Neighbors

Romans 12:17-21

State, God (Romans 13:1-4)

Leaders

1 Peter 2:21-23

Other leaders, God (Rom 13:1-4)

Foreign Gov

Matthew 28:18-20

State, God (Romans 13:1-4)

Don't confuse the interpersonal with the institutional

Don't confuse protection with revenge

Don't confuse the priorities of love

Don't confuse forgiveness with righteous anger

Don't confuse the choice to forgive with emotions

Don't confuse forgiveness with trust

Don't confuse our degrees of guilt before God

Romans 12:17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone.

Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, **be at peace with all men.**

¹⁹**Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God,**

for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

²⁰**But if your enemy is hungry, feed him,** and if he is thirsty, give him a drink;

for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head."

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good.**

13:1 Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities.

For there is no authority except from God,
and those which exist are established by God.

² Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God;
and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

³ For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil.

Do you want to have no fear of authority?

Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same;

⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing;

for it is a minister of God,
an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil.

⁵ Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection,
not only because of wrath, but also for conscience ' sake.

⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God,
devoting themselves to this very thing.

⁷ Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax *is due*;
custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

What if the state wants the church to disobey God and punishes it if it doesn't?

Acts 4:18 And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge;

²⁰ for we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard."

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

¹⁰ for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.

¹² Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.

¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

¹⁵ For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

¹⁶ *Act* as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as bondslaves of God.

¹⁷ Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

¹⁸ Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

¹⁹ For this *finds* favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

²⁰ For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God.

²¹ For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

²² who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth;

²³ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

²⁴ and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

²⁵ For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

1 Peter 3:14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, *you are* blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,

¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

¹⁶ and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

¹⁷ For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

¹⁸ For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

What if a foreign state attacks us?

Psalm 144:1 *A Psalm of David.* Blessed be the LORD, my rock, Who trains my hands for war, *And* my fingers for battle;

² My lovingkindness and my fortress, My stronghold and my deliverer; My shield and He in whom I take refuge...

Luke 3:14 And *some* soldiers were questioning him, saying, "And *what about* us, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse *anyone* falsely, and be content with your wages."

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