

Rev. Richard Schwartz
The Mark Of The True Christian: Supernatural Love – Part 2
Romans 12:17-21

1. When we refuse to return evil for the evil done against us, we can rejoice as we are suffering as a Christian and glorify God in the sight of all. We are blessed because the Holy Spirit rests on us. However, if we return evil for the evil done to us, we bring dishonor upon our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:13-16

¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

2. True wisdom belongs to those who make peace rather than those who reject peace. Of course, it is not always possible to have peace, but as much as it depends on us as Christians, we must always seek it.

James 3:13-18

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

3. When we take vengeance on others for the wrongs they do to us, we are not taking into account the justice of God. Instead, we rob Him of His rightful place to punish evil because sin is either punished at the Cross or punished by God's wrath in Hell.
4. Jesus commands us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us because God the Father loves His enemies. Even those who are condemned before God love those who love them. Christ demands perfect righteousness from those who would follow Him.

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Isaiah 53:3-6

³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Application

1. Love others by telling them the Gospel, even when they mistreat you.
2. Lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters in Christ, even when they fail to love us as we want them to.