

Elder Bobby Willis



Romans 12:17, ***“Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.”***

It is so very easy to want to retaliate against those who would or do bad things to us. Grudges can become common place in our character if we allow the evil spirit of revenge to cling to our daily attitude. Paul says, “Recompense to no man evil for evil.” This is so very hard to do according to our fleshly nature. It creeps into our society, our families, and even our churches if we are not careful. Only by the strengthening of our spiritual nature by constant contact with the encouraging words of our Lord, are we able to, as found in Romans 8:13, “mortify the deeds of the body (flesh).” When a child of God is born of the Spirit of God, they then have two natures; one they already have of the flesh, and then their new nature of God’s Spirit which takes up its abode within us at the new birth. These two natures constantly battle against each other. Paul even said it was a law, “When I would do good, evil is present with me” (Romans 7:21). So, what we find is one of our natures wants to “Recompense” (retaliate) with evil given for evil received, which is reverse from what we call the Golden Rule (Luke 6:31 - “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise”). We all need to work on this retaliation attitude. Recent news broadcast bears out an ever increasing number of people who have this evil attitude about them. God’s people should never allow their fleshly nature to over-rule their spiritual nature. Paul finishes Romans 12:17 by telling them to “Provide things honest in the sight of all men.” Lying is another bad aspect of our fleshly nature which should never be allowed to raise its ugly head. To “Provide things honest” is to not only tell the truth at all times, but to suppress anything which is against the truth. This is not only in our daily lives, but we are to live the truth of God’s word. Just believing it is not enough! We are to “be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only” (James 1:22) of the truths of the gospel. Some people seem to want to live by one standard (do what brings only immediate pleasure) and yet die by another standard (by the

grace and mercy of God). Be willing to stand up for the truth of God's word and also be able to defend it, not by recompensing evil for evil, but by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and Him crucified and a resurrected Saviour. This is providing "things honest." Think About It!