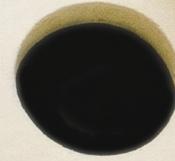


# When Forgiveness Doesn't Make Sense

## Why Forgiven People Must Still Sit In The Electric Chair

ROMANS 12:19-21



**Introduction:** Forgiven people never have to experience the consequences for their wrongdoing, right? Wrong! Today we will clarify one of the greatest myths about forgiveness that keeps many people from choosing to forgive their offenders.

### I. Vengeance

#### A. The Definition of Vengeance

“Vengeance is my desire to see another person **suffer** for the pain he has caused me.”

#### B. Biblical Warnings Against Vengeance

Proverbs 24:17-18 “<sup>17</sup> Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; <sup>18</sup> Lest the Lord see it and be displeased, and He turn away His anger from him.”

Romans 12:19-21 “<sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> ‘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.’ <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

# When Forgiveness **Doesn't** Make Sense

## Why Forgiven People Must Still Sit In The Electric Chair

---

2 Samuel 1:11-16 “<sup>11</sup>Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so also did all the men who were with him. <sup>12</sup>And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and his son Jonathan and for the people of the Lord and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. <sup>13</sup>And David said to the young man who told him, ‘Where are you from?’ And he answered, ‘I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite.’ <sup>14</sup>Then David said to him, ‘How is it you were not afraid to stretch out your hand to destroy the Lord’s anointed?’ <sup>15</sup>And David called one of the young men and said, ‘Go, cut him down.’ So he struck him and he died. <sup>16</sup>And David said to him, ‘Your blood is on your head, for your mouth has testified against you saying, I have killed the Lord’s anointed.’”

### II. Justice

#### A. The Definition of Justice

“Justice is the **payment** God or others might demand from my offender.”

#### B. Biblical Admonitions for Justice

Psalm 82:3 “Vindicate the weak and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and destitute.”

Isaiah 1:17 “Learn to do good; seek justice, reprove the ruthless; defend the orphan, plead for the widow.”

Micah 6:8 “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

#### Differences Between Vengeance and Justice

- Vengeance is our desire for **retribution** against our offender; justice is the **repayment** another person demands from our offender.
- Vengeance is striving to settle the debt **ourselves**; justice is allowing **someone else** to settle the score.
- Vengeance leads to **bitterness**; justice leads to **healing**.

# When Forgiveness **Doesn't** Make Sense

## Why Forgiven People Must Still Sit In The Electric Chair

### III. Why Must Forgiven People Experience Consequences?

#### A. Consequences Promote **Order** in Society. (Genesis 9:6)

Genesis 6:11-12 “<sup>11</sup>Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup>And God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth.”

Genesis 9:6 “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man.”

Deuteronomy 30:15-18 “<sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; <sup>16</sup>in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the Lord your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You shall not prolong your days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it.”

#### B. Consequences Serve as a **Deterrent** to Others. (1 Timothy 5:20)

1 Timothy 5:20 “Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also may be fearful of sinning.”

# When Forgiveness **Doesn't** Make Sense

## Why Forgiven People Must Still Sit In The Electric Chair

---

- C. Consequences Inoculate Us Against Further **Disobedience**. (Psalm 119:67)

Psalm 119:67 "Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Thy word."

### III. Administrators of Justice

- A. The **Government** (Romans 13:1-4)

Romans 13:1-4 "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."

- B. The **Church** (Matthew 18:15-20)

- C. **God** (Numbers 16:31-32)

### IV. A Closing Thought

Conclusion