

## **The Gospel in Shoe Leather, pt 4**

### **Romans 12:14-21**

#### **A nickel or a thousand-dollar bill**

#### **Forsaking revenge (14, 17, 19)**

Two sides: Blessing and not avenging

What's the line between allowing consequence and wishing for or executing retribution?

Other issues:

self-defense

war and pacificism

proportional retaliation (eye for eye, tooth for tooth)

The example of Jesus (1 Peter 2:23; Matt. 5:38-48)

Counteracting vengeance are positive practices:

Rejoice & weep with those who rejoice, weep (15)

Live in harmony with one another (16)

Humility (16)

Living honorably (17)

Living peaceably (18)

#### **Overcoming evil (17-21)**

We triumph over evil, not by succumbing to it or retaliating in like kind, but in living out the character of Christ in the midst of it. (17-20)

Grace enables us to do the unexpected.

#### **Principles**

- An evil response to an evil action or attitude is still evil
- An evil response to evil only increases the evil.
- Triumph over evil demands moral good, not more evil.
- Forsaking revenge requires Last Adam thinking.
- Vengeance & judgment are God's responsibility.
- Because God has overcome the evil in us by love, we are to overcome the evil in others by love.

#### **Take it home**

Where are you vulnerable?

Where can you overcome evil with good this week?