

Relational Vampires

Hostile People

hostile (hos-tl) *adj*: of, relating to, or characteristic of an enemy: opposed in feeling, action, or character; antagonistic

*8 Finally, all of you should be of **one mind**. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. 9 **Don't repay** evil for evil. **Don't retaliate** with insults when people insult you. **Instead, pay them back with a blessing**. That is what God has **called you to do**, and he **will grant you his blessing**. 10 For the Scriptures say, "**If you want to enjoy life**, and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. 11 Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it... **1 Peter 3:8-11; 17 (NLT)***

*17 ...Remember, it is better to **suffer for doing good**, if that is what God wants, than to **suffer for doing wrong!***

- **When we respond to evil with love it is ALWAYS for GOD'S GLORY and for OUR BENEFIT.**
- **Jesus spared his enemies from "what they deserved" only to give them "what they don't deserve," and so should we.**

*4 Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you. 5 **But remember that they will have to face God**, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead. **1 Peter 4:4-5 (NLT)***

- **Take the "consequences of evil and unfairness" out of our hands and place them in God's.**

*12 Dear friends, **don't be surprised** at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. 13 Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you*

*partners with Christ in his suffering, **so that** you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world... 1 Peter 4:12-13 (NLT)*

*19 So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, **keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.***

1 Peter 4:19 (NLT)