

“Leadership is the art and science of inspiring others to reach their full potential in the pursuit of a common vision”

Dr. James Bultman



*Today Scripture  
References  
Romans 12:17-21*

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary:*

*"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."*

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## The TCL E-Leadership Resource Leadership & Revenge- Romans 12:17-21

People that have become leaders for any length of time will eventually find that there are times where they fall out of fell One major piece to my teaching always begins with a self evaluation of how our individual world-views of leadership have evolved and what they are rooted in. When we become honest with ourselves, it is interesting what has shaped us. I begin many seminars with a question about things that influence us. I draw a contrast between the life of Christ and a contemporary leader, namely Donald Trump. Quite some time ago, one participant raised his hand and commented how Donald Trump did have some practices to learn from. I knew this person fairly well, and knew that he was a godly man, very dedicated to following Christ. However, I will not forget this example of how evil philosophy gains access to the Christians' life. Trump could be that perfect example of a "wolf in sheep's clothing". Find one or two practices of Donald Trump that can have a positive impact on your wealth and/or stature and you will find yourself defending Donald Trump or even going to hear him speak.

Seeing enough of Trump's TV program about leadership (that is what "The Apprentice" is all about), I needed more evidence. I proceeded to the book store recently and bought his book "Think Big and Kick Ass". It did not take me long to find one of his core beliefs ... namely revenge. In fact, he named and dedicated an entire chapter to it. Within a multitude of quotes and summary statements he teaches revenge with instructions such as:

1. That's why I say when you are wronged, go after those people, because it is a good feeling, ... I love it ...
2. When someone screws you, screw them back in spades.
3. Always have a good reason to get even.
4. Go for the jugular so that people watching will not want to mess with you.

Forgive me if you feel I should be editing his title and language, but I leave it in its basic form to prove more of a point of what influences other leaders. Watch and listen to what governors and former presidents say and do, ... then tell me that your leadership has no influence on life and language? Forgive me, for I digress.

Samson and Saul prayed earnestly for the Lord to grant them revenge against their enemies. In 1 Samuel 18:25 it says,

"Saul replied, "Say to David, The king wants no other price for the bride than a hundred Philistine foreskins, to take revenge on his enemies." If that was not in the Bible you would accuse me of embellishing this article. Leaders will experience days where you will have an opportunity to get revenge. There will be other days when you just think about it. Friends don't do it. In fact, don't even enjoy the satisfaction of picturing what you would like to do! Furthermore, don't withdraw from your enemies or from those that don't do as you wish. More subtle and covert forms of revenge can come in several forms. You can:

1. Strategize against them.
2. You can withdraw from speaking to them.
3. You can withdraw from supporting them in their good endeavors.

Paul reminds us in the scripture today that God said "it is mine to avenge". As Christian leaders, let us leave that kind of judgment and punishment to Him. Our job is to not only love those who don't do as we wish, but supply those that hurt us with act of kindness.

Our scripture today concludes with "In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." The ultimate subtleness of revenge would be to find satisfaction in watching how your kindness might torment those that have hurt us. We must acknowledge that only the Holy Spirit can bring conviction or guilt to the wrongdoer. While we might like to help, be intentional about repelling that most covert urge.

Friends, we have a choice every day whose leadership we will emulate. Please consider whose life your leadership most reflects. Please also consider the ideology and practices of who you follow or whose books you read.

Consider if and how you have used revenge. Discard its use, and enjoy the value of the absence of revenge, and the joy that brings to your team.

God Bless Your Leadership,  
Ron Porter

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