

# REVENGE AND FORGIVENESS

I was recently going through the Book of Romans in the Bible when I came across the famous statement, “Vengeance is mine,” Romans 12:19. It made me think not only about Revenge but also about Forgiveness.

Revenge results in us going against God’s wishes, but forgiveness allows us to follow in God’s footsteps. The following is just a simple look at what we should be aware of when we engage in these two areas of our human nature, which can be seen as opposites.

## REVENGE

Revenge is the planned hurt we wish to inflict on a person, a group, or an organisation that has hurt us.

When we are hurt by people we love and trust, it can cause anger, sadness, and confusion. If we dwell on these hurtful events or situations, grudges filled with resentment and hostility can take root.

All this can lead to people taking revenge. To do so, they must plan any retaliatory reaction and then activate it against the people or organisations responsible.

What is the normal result of revenge actions? They will probably hurt the people they were intended to, but this could make them angry and want to seek revenge. It could all spiral into a feud between individuals, families, groups, organisations, and even countries.

When looked at closely, planning and activating any type of revenge is a complete waste of time and energy. Just think about what could have been done to benefit the people involved if they had used this time to help people in need. It’s no wonder that God implied that we should leave vengeance alone when he said, “Vengeance is mine”.

## FORGIVENESS

What is forgiveness? We can all be hurt by words or actions or a combination of both, and the decision not to retaliate against the perpetrators is what we call forgiveness.

If we do not forgive, we usually become angry, bitter, irritable, and depressed, so why not forgive? It costs us nothing.

When such actions have hurt us, we tend to think of some ways to get even and take revenge, but letting the perpetrators know that you will not do so is forgiveness.

Forgiveness can result in the removal of hostilities between the parties involved and even foster better relationships.

Many an act of forgiveness can start with the words “I’m sorry.” How many people, groups, or even countries have fallen out, and all it took to resume friendly relations was for someone to say these two words?

Marriages could be saved because these two words remove that human passion called PRIDE. Forgiveness through the words "I'm sorry" will always outperform pride unless one side is determined not to be reconciled. You can still forgive in these situations, even though it is not accepted, but you can now forget the incident and get on with your life.

Never let revenge spoil your life because it can do so when things don't go as planned and never provide happiness.

Embrace forgiveness; it provides many benefits; never lose them by not granting it or delaying it. Thus, you will not experience many good feelings such as better understanding, empathy, compassion, and, above all, peace and contentment.

Always be aware of revenge and reject it because it can lead to hatred and conflict, but always use and accept forgiveness as it promotes peace, love and friendship.