

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#105) The Proverbs of Solomon 16:7- Real "Peace Accords"

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 16:7:

When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Obedying God's Will toward our "enemies" is the straightest, simplest, most successful method for producing "peace" than any and every plan and method ever tried before in the history of mankind! Under Moses' Law:

Three times in the year all your men shall appear before the Lord, the LORD God of Israel. For I will cast out the nations before you and enlarge your borders; neither will any man covet your land when you go up to appear before the LORD your God three times in the year. (**Exodus 34:23-24**)

Israelite men had to journey three times a year to the place where God's sacrifices were to be offered, but God promised no one would "covet" (and therefore steal) their land while they were gone to do God's Will! After the Israelites had settled in the Promised Land, had kings, then divided, the king of the Southern Kingdom knew "the fear of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat" (**2 Chronicles 17:10**).

Under the Law of Jesus Christ, though persecution had arisen against the church of Christ (**Acts 8:1-4**), there came a time when "the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied" (**Acts 9:31**). Truly, "peace" exists when God's people obey His Will, not when world rulers sign papers!

An "enemy" is defined in the last verse in the Bible where the term is used: Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to

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be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
([James 4:4](#))

Anyone who is antagonist against God, God's Will, and God's People is an "enemy!" Surely one must not rely upon encouragement from an "enemy:" Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. ([Proverbs 27:6](#))

In complete contrast to everyone who follows the worldly way of human power, war, and control, all Christians who follow God's Will would respond with good for evil, which is never better stated than when Jesus Christ taught it in His Sermon on the Mount:

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?" ([Matthew 5:43-46](#))

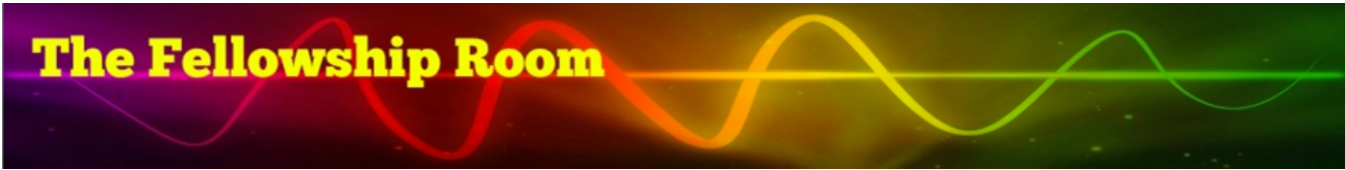
The best way to get rid of an enemy is to show him/ her a better way of behavior, like God, Who gives even the wicked some blessings! What Solomon taught is applied to Christianity by the Apostle Paul:

If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; for so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the LORD will reward you. ([Proverbs 25:21-22](#))

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the LORD. Therefore 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." ([Romans 12:18-21](#))

The wisest way to dispose of enemies is by returning good for evil! Any enemy with conscience cannot ignore the Christian's response to his/ her ugliness.

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However, it is prefaced with the understanding this may not work in every case when he said, "If it is possible, as much as depends on you." This hallmark of Christianity is easily distinguished from Islamic beheadings, Catholic tortures, or Socialist destruction. Clearly, no one should rise up haughtily when something bad happens to an enemy:

Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, and He turn away His wrath from him. (**Proverbs 24:17-18**)

God can punish pride from His children today by misfortune passed from enemies.

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