

Main Idea: Only those who are like Christ can love and not be loved in return, give and not get.

Revenge

Byron called it, "Sweet." Bacon called it, "a kind of wild justice." Although Shakespeare warned us in "Othello," that it will swallow us up, it still continues to dominate the lives of so many.

Think About It...

1. The Cultural Norm – Rights and Retaliation. Our tendency is to seek revenge but call it something else.
2. The Nature of Man – Revenge and Manipulation. It is in our nature to seek our opportunity and then strike back.
3. The Nature of God – Love and Forgiveness. Anyone can love those who love back. Anyone can give to those who will give back. Love and forgiveness mark us as distinctive, as followers of Christ.

What will you do?

Jesus taught that certain attitudes and actions often reflect on the individual. It is the sowing and reaping principle:

- ☐ Mercy leads to mercy
- ☐ Judgment leads to judgment
- ☐ Condemnation leads to condemnation
- ☐ Pardon leads to pardon
- ☐ Giving leads to giving

God gives good things to everyone, even to His enemies. We call this "common grace." Even to those who profane His character and His Name, God gives good gifts. As followers of Christ, we are to attempt the same.

Counter-Culture

Paul's antidote in Romans 12:9–21 is not a technique but a transformed way of life. He outlines a "lived response to God's mercies." It is doctrine turning into discipleship, and it is definitely counter-cultural!

Don't Forget

- ✓ Forgiveness isn't forgetting; it's letting go.
- ✓ Reconciliation takes two; forgiveness only takes one.
- ✓ Even when full reconciliation isn't possible, you can still overcome evil with good.

Many are searching from day to day to find more rocks to throw at their past or their circumstances. Let me encourage you to put down the rocks and pick up the cross. Your relationship with Jesus Christ will help you deal with the desire for revenge that your humanity may be craving.

Family Night Big idea – Read Romans 12:9-21

- Elementary School – Ask, "How should we treat others? What's something nice that a friend did for you? Who do you consider your "enemy"? Why do you think they are your enemy? Why does God tell us to love our enemies?"
- Middle/ High School – Ask, "What could you do to show love to your enemy? If you did that, what could happen? Why is this a difficult passage for us to accept? Is it possible to do what Paul says in today's world? How so?"

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, help us learn to love our enemies and try to forgive others. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meets this Wednesday, November 5th.

Gravity: Today in both services.

Today's Songs

I Believe.....Phil Wickham

Holy Forever.....Chris Tomlin

Praise You Anywhere.....Brandon Lake

Baby Bottle Boomerang for Choices of the Heart
DUE TODAY!

Christmas Family Gift Giving

We want you to suggest families within your circle of influence who need help with Christmas this year. You can use the Communication Card or notify a staff member. You will be contacted by Paulette to get gift ideas. We need your family information by November 16th so we can post a gift sign-up sheet on November 23rd.

Poinsettia in Memory or Honor of Your Loved One

Order until Nov. 23rd. We will display them on the stage throughout the holiday. Cost is \$20. Please pay at the time you order. Take home after Christmas Eve Service.