

**How NOT to take it personal...
... even when it IS personal**

The Church must make sure that revenge is NEVER happening

1 Thess 5:15 **MAKE SURE** that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but **ALWAYS TRY** to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

1 Peter 3:9 **DO NOT** repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but **with blessing**, because **TO THIS YOU WERE CALLED** so that you may inherit a blessing.

Instead of paybacks, we must ALWAYS respond with love and peace - Rom 12:17-21 - 17 **DO NOT REPAY ANYONE EVIL FOR EVIL**. Be careful to do **what is right** in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, **AS FAR AS IT DEPENDS ON YOU**, live at peace with everyone. 19 **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. 20 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." 21 **Do not be overcome by evil**, but overcome evil with good.

We must live to win others to God, not to get payment for self - Matt 5:38-48 - 38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, **Do not resist an evil person**. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, **let him have your cloak as well**. 41 If someone forces you to go one mile, **go with him two miles**. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: **LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU**, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 **BE PERFECT, THEREFORE, AS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS PERFECT**.

God makes clear, "SELF" is NEVER to be the purpose - Phil 2:3-4 - 3 **DO NOTHING** out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but **IN HUMILITY** consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

For those that live for self, they are in danger whether you think it is justified or not - Rom 2:8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there **WILL BE** wrath and anger.

As Paul is inspired to display, we must react out of "wise caution", not revenge - 2 Tim 4:14-15 - 14 Alexander the metalworker **did me a great deal of harm**. **THE LORD WILL REPAY HIM FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE**. 15 You too should be **ON YOUR GUARD** against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

"Wise caution" / "On Your Guard" IS NOT retaliation, it's Godly Caution. Some "wise caution" / "On Your Guard" examples
Know and react when someone is greedy - Prov 23:6-8 - 6 Do not eat the food of a stingy man, do not crave his delicacies; 7 for he is the kind of man who is always thinking about the cost. "Eat and drink," he says to you, but his heart is not with you. 8 You will vomit up the little you have eaten and will have wasted your compliments.

Know when dealing with a fool - Prov 23:9 Do not speak to a fool, for he will scorn the wisdom of your words.

A hot-tempered man is to be avoided and MUST learn

Prov 22:24-25 - 24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, 25 or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.

Prov 19:19 **A hot-tempered man** must pay the penalty; if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.

*****MAKE SURE*** The labeling of the people is done with **Godly judgement NOT personal perception** - John 7:24 Stop judging by mere appearances, and **MAKE A RIGHT JUDGMENT**."**

We represent God, and how we are to others MUST BE based on God, even when it is due to our harm - Col 3:12-14 - 12 Therefore, **as God's chosen people**, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves with** compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 **BEAR with each other** and **FORGIVE WHATEVER GRIEVANCES YOU MAY HAVE AGAINST ONE ANOTHER. FORGIVE AS THE LORD FORGAVE YOU**. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

True love is not driven by self-hurt - 1 Cor 13:4-6 - 4 **LOVE IS** patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it **KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS**. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

God says HE will handle it, LET HIM HANDLE IT! - 2 Thess 1:6-7 - 6 **God is just: HE WILL PAY BACK TROUBLE TO THOSE WHO TROUBLE YOU** 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.