

## Retaliation vs Righteous Response

**Retaliation** – React by paying back or revenge for wrong done

**Righteous Response** – Responsible (Godly) reaction

**Make no mistake, retaliation is ALWAYS wrong because it is sacred** - Rom 12:19-21 - 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.

**When we receive undeserved actions, we must stay responsible to God** - 1 Peter 2:19-23 - 19 For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 **TO THIS YOU WERE CALLED**, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. **Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.**

**At times our response is to give in, in order to minister** - Matt 5:38-41 - 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.

**When wrong is done there should be consequences no matter the reason** - Prov 6:30-31 - 30 Men **do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving.** 31 Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house.

**\*If hit with sexist, racist, elitist... you react in stewardship (see later)**

**Eventually, God will handle all wrong doing** - Col 3:25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

**Christians must hold one another accountable for wrong doing, and must always forgive** - Luke 17:3-4 - "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. 4 If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."

**God gives the exact response to be followed if you have been wronged by another brother** - Matt 18:15-17 - 15 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. 16 But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, **treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.**

**Accountability is for the benefit of Christians' lives** - 2 Thess 3:14-15 - 14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed. 15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

**Make sure you are seeing others through God's eyes, NOT yours** - John 7:24 Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."

**We must righteously recognize a person's character and respond wisely –**

**A greedy person** - 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.

**An irritable person** - 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.

**A gossip** - Prov 20:19 A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much.

**A divisive person** - Rom 16:17 I urge you, brothers, to **watch out for those who cause divisions** and **put obstacles in your way** that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

**We are to respond to a contentious person because they are a danger to others** - Titus 3:10-11 - 10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, **have nothing to do with him.** 11 You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is **self-condemned.**

**The character of a person will display through his actions** - Prov 12:16 A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.

**A person's role affects how we respond to them** - 1 Tim 5:1-2 - Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

**This comes down to judgment, and how we judge WILL AFFECT how we are judged** - Matt 7:1-2 - "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

**We have an obligation to others, no matter who they are** - Rom 15:1-2 - We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.