

Week 4 7 June 2020
LOVE DOES
One Another

“Revenge is Totally Overrated”

1 Thessalonians 5:14-28

Sermon Outline

- Don't Retaliate – Don't repay wrong with more wrong (v15a)
- Rather, Seek Good and Be Kind (v15b)
- This releases our spirit to Worship and Be at Peace (v16-23)
- Sound Impossible – Not for God (v24)
- Paul's advice : Don't Wait – Act in Faith Now (v27-28)

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Small Group Questions / Discussion

Do you think worldly thinking encourages revenge? Do you agree it seems to be a natural response for all of us (at least in our minds) if we've been hurt badly? If we hold onto resentment – we become the victim twice over – do you agree? Explain! Can you share a time when bitterness controlled your life?

God says there is a better way. What do you think about His counterculture where we do good and be kind and patient towards all others – even our enemies? Can you share a time when God challenged you in this way? What was the result?

Paul shares what takes place when we worship God with a pure heart. No lurking bitterness or un-forgiveness. Can you share a time when life's pain became a barrier to worship? A time when you couldn't celebrate/give thanks/ pray. Bitterness can be a barrier to our relationship with God – it can poison our worship. Do you think this is something we are always aware of or can we be a little blind to this danger?

I'm aware that it can seem insensitive to suggest that we pray for God to bless those that hurt us. Do you think it's impossible for God to bridge that gap? Can God bring us to a place where we really desire good for an enemy? I've suggested that at times we just submit to God and act on faith, and in time He will bring about a change in our heart. Do you agree or do we wait until we feel like obeying (forgiving/ doing good/ being kind/ pray for our enemies)?

Paul strongly encourages us to act on this teaching. To release all bitterness and a desire for revenge. Can you share a situation where you kept putting off starting this journey with God? What made you act? Any regrets? Do you agree that revenge is totally overrated?

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