

TWO REQUIREMENTS related to the various interactions church members may face with others...

I. PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT

A. WHAT'S EXPECTED IN SPECIFIC SITUATIONS

The Unruly

The Fainthearted

The Weak

B. WHAT'S EXPECTED IN ALL SITUATIONS

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A. WHAT'S EXPECTED IN SPECIFIC SITUATIONS

B. WHAT'S EXPECTED IN ALL SITUATIONS

II. PERSONAL CONSTRAINT

Prov 12:18 - There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword...

James 3:5–6, 8, 10 – 5 ...the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell. ... 8 But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. ... 10 from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

TWO REQUIREMENTS related to necessary interactions with other people:

I. PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT

II. PERSONAL CONSTRAINT

A. THE CATEGORICAL PROHIBITION

15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil...

1 Thes 2:14 - For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches ... that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews...

LEX TALIONIS

‘law of retaliation’

***Exo 21:23–25** - 23 "But if there is any further injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.*

***Lev 24:19** - If a man injures his neighbor, just as he has done, so it shall be done to him...*

***Deut 19:21** - Thus you shall not show pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.*

Prov 20:22 - Do not say, "I will repay evil"; Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.

Prov 24:29 - Do not say, "Thus I shall do to him as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work."

Deut 32:35 - Vengeance is Mine, and retribution...

Nahum 1:2 - A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; The LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies.

Heb 10:30 - For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE."

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II. PERSONAL CONSTRAINT

A. THE CATEGORICAL PROHIBITION

B. THE CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVE

15...but always seek after that which is good

Rom 12:14 - Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

1 Tim 6:11 - ... pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

Heb 12:14 - Pursue peace with all men...

2 Cor 8:21 - ...we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Eph 4:25 - ...laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR...

Phil 4:8 - Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

2 Kings 6:22 - He answered, "You shall not kill them. Would you kill those you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master."

Prov 25:21 - If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink...

Matt 5:43–44 - 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

1 Cor 4:12 - ... when we are reviled, we bless...

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15...for one another and for all people.

Gal 6:10 - ...while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people...

1 Tim 2:1 - ...I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

2 Tim 2:24 - The Lord's bond-servant must ...be kind to all... patient when wronged...

Titus 3:2 - ...malign no one... be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

WILLIAM NEIL: *The aim of the Christian must always be to secure the greatest good of all.*

Matt 5:38–42, 44 - 38 "You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.' 39 "But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40 "If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. 41 "Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. ... 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...

1 Pet 2:23 - and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously...

1 Pet 3:9 - not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead...

Rom 12:17–19 - 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. ...18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. 20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Rom 5:10...while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son...

TWO CONNECTED IDEAS:

#1 – SUFFERING

1 Pet 2:19–21, 23 - 19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. 21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, ... 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;

Rom 13:3–4 - 3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. ...4 ...for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

TWO CONNECTED IDEAS:

#1 – SUFFERING

#2 – FORGIVENESS

