

The Old Hickory

Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Revenge or Kindness

I suspect that few of us would admit to living by the motto, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" (Matthew 5:38), but let's be honest -- there is something in us that enjoys the idea of getting revenge. Some of the more popular movies throughout the past years have been those that opened with someone being mistreated. We spend the rest of the movie anxiously waiting for the hero to get the opportunity to exact his revenge -- and then we cheer!

It's not much different on a personal level. I suspect that whenever somebody does you wrong, the temptation is there to immediately start thinking of what you can do to get them back. But, if you find yourself tempted to take revenge, may I suggest two things:

(1) Resist the temptation to exchange evil for evil. That temptation will always be strong and we need realize that it will be there. But we also need to remember the emptiness and hollowness of revenge and resentment.

(2) Show your enemy kindness. Abraham Lincoln was once accused of being too nice to his enemy. He was told to be firmer; he must destroy his enemies. He replied, "I do destroy them when they become my friends."

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." (Matt. 5:43-44)

- Alan Smith

“How can you lead to Christ your boy
Unless Christ’s method you employ?
There’s just one thing that you can do -
It’s let that boy see Christ in you.

“Have you a husband fond and true?
A wife who’s blind to all but you?
If each would win the other one,
That life must speak of God’s dear Son.

“There is but one successful plan
By which to win a fellow man;
Have you a neighbor old or new?
Just let that man see Christ in you.

“The Church that hopes to win the lost
Must pay the one unchanging cost;
She must compel the world to see
In her the Christ of Calvary.”

- Author unknown

Interpretations of Love

Patience is Love on the anvil, bearing blow after blow of suffering.

Zeal is Love in the harvest field, never tiring of toil.

Meekness is Love in company when it vaunteth not itself.

Perseverance is Love on a journey, pressing on with unflagging step toward the end.

Joy is Love making its own sunshine where others see nothing but gloom.

Power is Love driving the soul's chariot wheels over all opposition.

> Patience: The ability to idle your motor when you feel like stripping your gears.

> We can learn much about patience by observing ordinary farmers. Farmers plant, pull weeds, cultivate, and harvest. Every day before the harvest, a farmer will do at least two things: watch and wait. He knows that the harvest will come if he will just be patient. So he watches for problems that need solving while he waits for his precious crops to grow. A farmer knows that he cannot hurry the harvest. It will come in due time.

> "Your husband seems to be very impatient lately."

"Yes, he is, very."

"What is the matter with him?"

"He is getting tired waiting for a chance to get out where he can sit patiently hour after hour waiting for a fish to nibble at his bait."

> Patience is the ballast of the soul, that will keep it from rolling and tumbling in the greatest storms; and he that will venture out without this to make him sail even and steady will certainly make shipwreck and drown himself, first in the cares and sorrows of this world, and then in perdition.—*Hopkins*

> "It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favors." - George Washington

> We can stand affliction better than we can prosperity, for in prosperity we forget God.

SUNDAY'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: *"Implanting Self-Control In Our Children!"* (text: 1 Cor. 9:19-27); Sunday evening: *Jesus Christ: A Closer Look – Darkness and Death!* (Mark 15:33-41).