

Brother One Another, Pt 3 It's Payback Time

1) Restraining Passions – v. 14

...be patient with everyone

Literally the word here is “*macro-thumeo*” – “long-passioned”... meaning “slow to act on your passions.”

We are taught to be like Abraham – Heb 6:15 – *and so having patiently waited, he obtained the promise... 25 years between when God promised to make from him a great nation until Isaac was born to Sarah.*

We are taught to be like the farmer – James 5:7-8 – *Therefore be patient, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.*

We are taught to be like God Himself – 2 Peter 3:9 – *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

2) Restraining Revenge – v. 15

... see to it that no one repays another evil for evil

3-Point Revenge Restraint System

1. Violate the New Law – James 2:12-13
2. Make Yourself God – Romans 12:17-19
3. Stop Following Jesus' Example – 1 Pet 2:21-23

3) Pursuing Them Good – v. 15

2 Motivations...

1. Forgiveness – Mark 11:25

I have been forgiven
I am called to forgive

Forgiveness is to completely release another from any repayment for wrongs done.

Mark 11:25 puts a high premium on our forgiveness of others...

Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive your transgressions.

2. True Sons of your Father – Matthew 5:44-45 / Luke 6:35

Matthew 5:44-45 – But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Luke 6:35 – But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.

Praxis

1. Consider a memorable time when you visibly lost your patience – what was going on in your mind?
2. Why do we especially need patience with the 3 groups in v. 14?
3. Consider Luke 18:7-8, Romans 12:19, 2 Pet 3:9, Rev 6:9-11 – what do you learn here about our patience, God’s patience, and God’s justice?
4. What were the 3 spiritual “weapons” mentioned against taking your own revenge?
5. What has been more joyful for you – restraining revenge or doing good? Have a personal example?
6. Thought Question: What are the key differences between each: civil justice (Rom 13:1-4), parental justice (Heb 12:4-12), and personal revenge (1 Thess 5:15)?