

The Christian response to those that mistreat you.

Key idea: Jesus expects us to live a life of selflessness rather than resort to selfish retaliation.

I. What was the purpose of mosaic law?

Exodus 21:24; Deuteronomy 19:21; Leviticus 24:20

- A. The main intent in the law was to control excesses
- B. It was a restriction upon unrestrained vengeance
- C. To curtail further crime

The Old Testament never means to “take revenge whenever you have been wronged.” *Leviticus 19:18; Proverbs 20:22; Proverbs 24:29*

II. How did the religious leaders pervert the law of God?

- A. As an opportunity to become judge, jury, and executioner
- B. As a mandate for revenge

John MacArthur has said, “Human vengeance is never satisfied with justice, it wants a pound of flesh for an ounce of offence.”

Retaliation, usually with interest, is a natural extension of selfishness.

III. What principles should guide the believer in how we respond to others? *Romans 12:17-21*

- A. A proper response involves surrender
 - 1. Dignity - v. 38
 - 2. Security - v. 40
 - 3. Liberty - v. 41
 - 4. Property - v. 42
- B. A proper response is identified by being a servant
- C. A proper requires the supernatural (the Spirit filled life)