

Holding Grudges, Getting Even (Pt. 2)

Matthew 5:38-42

- I. Reject the Popular Misunderstanding of “an Eye for an Eye” (38)
 - A. What the Old Testament Really Taught (38) — *just legal punishment*
 - B. What the Scribes & Pharisees Wrongly Taught (38) — *justifiable personal revenge*
- II. Follow Jesus’ Revolutionary Teaching about Personal Revenge (39-42)
 - A. The General Principle (39a)

Key Definitions...

- 1. *Hold a grudge*** – maintain ongoing resentment, anger, bitterness, or hatred because of a past insult or injury to you or someone else.
- 2. *Seek revenge*** – either to desire or to inflict harm on someone because of a past insult or injury to you or someone else.

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 - A. The General Principle (39a)
 - B. Four Specific Examples (39b-42)

Four Categories of Personal Offenses

1. An intentional attack on our dignity (39b)
2. An intentional attack on our property (40)
3. A governmental attack on our liberty (41)
4. An intentional attack on our generosity (42)

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A. The General Principle (39a)

B. Four Specific Examples (39b-42)

1. An intentional attack on our dignity (39b)

a. What This Does Not Teach

- Complete nonresistance—*"physical violence is always wrong in every circumstance."*
- Pacifism—*"a Christian must never engage in killing of any kind, especially in war."*

Scripture explicitly teaches...

1. Christians can be soldiers and engage in war (Lk. 3:14).
2. Christians can engage in self-defense...
 - By fleeing (1 Sam. 19:10; Lk. 4:29-30; Jn. 8:59; 10:39; 2 Cor. 11:32)
 - By using a weapon (Ex. 22:2-3; Lk. 22:36-38)
3. Christians must respect and submit to the use of force by government (Rom. 13:1-4; 1 Pet. 2:13).

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1. Intentional attacks on our dignity (39b)

a. What This Does Not Teach

- Complete nonresistance—*"physical violence is always wrong in every circumstance."*
- Pacifism—*"a Christian must never engage in killing of any kind, especially in war."*

b. What This Does Teach—*how to respond to insults*