

“Are You Ready to Let Go of It?”
August 16, 2020 * 1 Thessalonians 5:15

Do not seek _____

Revenge . . .

- never _____

OT Law of Retaliation (*Lex Talionis*)

“an eye for an eye”

Ex. 21:23-25; Lev. 24:19-20; Deut. 19:21

Matt. 5:38-42

- consumes us - our peace & joy

Prov. 24:29; Eph. 4:31

- never _____ our loss

- is not our responsibility – _____ ultimately belongs to God

Romans 12:17–21

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

Seek to do _____

- _____ those who have harmed or wronged you – let it go*

Matt. 6:14-15; Ephesians 4:32

“When we forgive evil we do not excuse it, we do not tolerate it, we do not smother it. We look the evil full in the face, call it what it is, let its horror shock and stun and enrage us, and only then do we forgive it.”

— **Lewis B. Smedes**, *Forgive and Forget*

- Pray for and _____ your enemies

NT Law of Love

Matt. 5:43-45

- Show _____

Prov. 25:21-22; Romans 12:20-21

Fill in the blanks: revenge, ends, replaces, Justice, good, Forgive, love, kindness

*Lewis B. Smedes, **Forgive and Forget**, says that forgiveness is not Forgetting (p. 38), Excusing (p. 39), Smothering conflict (p. 44), Accepting (p. 45), Tolerance (p. 46)