

## **RULES REGARDING WRONGS**

### **Matthew 5:38-42**

**How should a Christian respond to those who wrong them?**

#### **I. THE INSTRUCTIONS** (38-39a)

##### **A. COMMON TEACHING** (38)

1. The Basis for the Law - See Ex. 21:24, Lev. 24:20 and Deut. 19:21  
- Read Lev. 24:17-22
2. The Corruption of the Law
  - a. Rabbinic tradition changed a national law into personal license
  - b. The Pharisees turned what was originally restrictive into something prescriptive

##### **B. CHRIST'S TEACHING** (39a)

1. What Jesus forbids
  - a. Personal opposition, resentment, spite and vengeance  
- Based on the teachings of Lev. 19:18, and Prov. 20:22, 24:29 and 25:21-22
  - b. Jesus disdains private revenge
  - c. Jesus calls out selfishness that cares more about self than others
2. Jesus does not say to tolerate evil
  - a. He drove out wicked moneychangers in John 2:15 and Matt. 21:1-2
  - b. Paul rightly opposed Peter's poor judgment and actions in Gal. 2:11
  - c. The church is told to remove openly sinning members in Matt. 18:15-17 and I Cor. 5:13
  - d. The government is charged with opposing evil in Rom. 13:4

#### **II. SOME APPLICATIONS** (39b-42)

##### **A. NO VENGEANCE WHEN HUMILIATED** (39b)

1. Even when deeply insulted in a public way, turn away without reaction
2. Jesus demonstrates this
  - a. Telling Peter to put up his sword - Matt. 26:50-54
  - b. When reviled He did not revile - I Peter 2:20-23
  - c. Asking His Father to forgive the crucifiers - Luke 23:34
3. Other examples include
  - a. Joseph with his brothers in Gen. 50:19-21
  - b. David with Saul in I Sam. 24 & 26

Over please >

**B. NO VENGEANCE WHEN TAKEN TO COURT (40)**

1. Give up your rights - See I Cor. 6:6-7  
- Note also an example in I Cor. 9:1, 4-6, 12
2. Give more than you have to

**C. NO VENGEANCE WHEN THE LAW REQUIRES SUBMISSION (41)**

1. Be a cheerful servant and not a bitter burden-bearer
2. Think of your duty and opportunity and not your liberty  
- See examples in Matt. 17:24-27 and 27:32
3. Give up your liberty, time and energy - Note Col. 3:22-24

**D. NO VENGEANCE WHEN ASKED TO MEET A NEED (42)**

1. Demonstrate a willing, generous and loving desire to help others  
- Exp: Abraham giving Lot the best land in Gen. 13:8-9
2. Be considerate, kind and compassionate
  - a. Even at the risk of being taken advantage of
  - b. Note God's praise for those whose possessions were confiscated in Heb. 10:34

**CONCLUSION:****To be selfless and submissive is not fair**

- Fairness would not dictate such actions
- Believers are not called to be fair but to be godly

**Jesus teaches us to give up our "rights" to dignity, possessions, time and money and thereby serve and surprise those around us.**

**Read Romans 12:17-21**