

Rash Judgments and *Romans 12:14-21*

“How can she be so stupid?” I asked my wife. We had been driving east, and we came to a four-way-stop. A car heading west arrived at the intersection just after we did. The woman driver had her left-turn signal on. We went first proceeding east across the intersection. Suddenly, there she was, about to make a left turn directly into us. We both stopped abruptly making furious eye contact. I gestured that we had the right-of-way. “Where did she get her license?” I thought.

She angrily pointed at the front of our vehicle. What part of my old Ford pickup didn’t she like, I wondered. After another block, we intended to turn left. I reached to turn on the blinker and noticed that it was already on—blinking for a right-hand turn. That’s why that “reckless” woman had pointed at our vehicle.

When I criticize someone else’s misdeeds, I usually soon discover either that I was partially at fault, or else I duplicate the other person’s behavior shortly thereafter.

Jesus foresaw our road rage when he advised us to take the railroad ties out of our own eyes before we try to remove tiny splinters from the eyes of others. He’d also say, “Keep calm. Leave the retaliation to me.” Vengeance usually destroys the avenger before it harms the person to whom the vengeance is directed. If we don’t all cool it, the only people left to express road rage might be hearse drivers. “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”



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