

**Today, I want to start off with some NEW TEXT as we continue in our study of FIRST JOHN...**

And then I want to go back and pick up more of the Apostle John's teaching of AGAPE as the MARK OF A "DISCIPLE" AND THE MEANS TO INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP/KOINONIA WITH GOD AND OTHER BELIEVERS, by answering some questions that always come up like,

So if I am to turn the other cheek, what about physical abuse?

So if I am NOT to commit murder, how can I serve in the military?

So if I am to lend to others, what if they won't ever pay me back?

So if I am to turn the other cheek, how do I protect my family?

So If I can't gossip, how do I talk about others in a Godly way to help them?

So when if ever do we remove a sinner from the church if Matt 18 is for restoration?

**FROM LAST WEEK...**

1John 2:7 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. <sup>8</sup> On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining. <sup>9</sup> **The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. <sup>10</sup> The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup> But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.**

**CONTINUING WITH ADDITIONAL TEXT FOR THIS WEEK...(Observe Repetition)**

**1John 2:12** *I am writing* to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. <sup>13</sup> *I am writing* to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. *I am writing* to you, young men, because you have **overcome** the evil one. *I have written* to you, children, because you know the Father. <sup>14</sup> *I have written* to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. *I have written* to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have **overcome** the evil one.

**Little Children of God** (AKA=John's affectionate term for ALL BELIEVERS) They have their sins forgiven and thus have come to "KNOW" the Father and His affectionate love through His Son Jesus Christ who died in their place!

**Fathers (and Mothers of the faith)** Those who have been in the faith for some time= **KNOW the truth about Jesus**, who He is...and what He did...and are able to pass it along to others...**they are disciple makers and keepers of the Gospel** 😊

**Young Men (and Women of the faith)** are strong physically AND spiritually and thus capable of taking on Satan and his minions in Spiritual Warfare BECAUSE THE TRUTH OF THE BIBLE "Abides" in them, (The SWORD OF THE SPIRIT) IT IS **THEIR OFFENSIVE WEAPON** (EPH. 6) and they know how to use it effectively!

JEN-Z ...Those Born from 1997-2013... ARE BECOMING THE GREATEST CONSUMERS OF THE BIBLE TODAY IN THE USA.....THEY ARE SEARCHING FOR PURPOSE...HAVING BEEN DUPED BY THE WORLD and many finding TRUTH in the BIBLE!...Revival in the church may come from THIS GENERATION???...If we are lazy they could also be lost to spiritualism...

**Now back to our text FROM LAST WEEK...** on the command from Jesus to LOVE/AGAPE ONE ANOTHER INCLUDING OUR ENEMIES!!!!

**HERE IS THE TEXT WE WERE LOOKING AT AND THEN THE QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT LOGICALLY FOLLOW**

**1John 2:9-11** *The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. <sup>10</sup> The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup> But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

**NOW LET'S LOOK AT SOME OF THE COMMON QUESTIONS FROM JESUS COMMAND TO LOVE OTHERS BY CHOICE, UNCONDITIONALLY....**

**So if I am to turn the other cheek, what about physical abuse?**

**Matthew 5:39** *"I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also".*

**Nowhere in Scripture does it say a Christian is to intentionally place themselves in front of a train (Wreck)....*meaning to submit to physical abuse*...** Jesus teaching is to prevent us from **"self-retaliation", NOT self-protection (STORY OF KUNG FOO KID VS. BULLY)**

**BTW: Physical violence in marriage has a negligible difference of men against women and/or women against men...If this is you, get good marriage counseling and remember...GET HELP IF NECESSARY...This is where **Romans 13** comes in...** We are to be in submission to governing authorities, where the prudent thing is to call 911 if necessary and allow the vengeance of God to work through those charged with protecting your safety...

**Steve: PERHAPS READ ROM. 13**

### So if I am to lend to others, what if they won't ever pay me back?

**Principle 1.** Don't ever lend if you can't give the money away... This will save relationships and hard feelings down the road.

**Principle 2.** Don't loan to those who waste God's money or to those who never pay back a loan, as there is no agape in enabling bad behavior and supporting someone else's sin....

**MY PET PIEVE**=Parents who waste God's money at death giving to kids with a sense of entitlement who can't manage God's money

**NOW?????!!!!!!** James 4:3 *You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.*

### So if I am to turn the other cheek, how do I protect my family?

Matthew 5:39 *"I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also".*

**While the Bible clearly forbids MURDER, it does not forbid killing in justifiable situations-** **To Kill someone is NOT the same as Murder**

1. If your motive is hate, Killing is Murder and never justified!...*You have heard-*
2. Augustine, Luther and Calvin, fathers of the faith all agree... *"Disciples of Jesus should be willing to suffer personal injustices, BUT they should also realize that loving one's neighbor sometimes implies a willingness to use force. In other words, we should always be prepared to defend others who are being abused and mistreated in some way".* **Complete non-resistance, then, is not necessarily an absolute standard for the Christian life.**
3. In **Genesis 14:1-16**, Abraham took a force of 318 men and rescued Lot and his possessions from an army of five nations.
4. Exodus 22:2 *If the thief is caught while breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there will be no bloodguiltiness on his account.*
5. **At the end of His earthly ministry** Jesus told His disciples to procure swords for self defense...
6. Scripture encourages self-defense while also warning us to not seek personal revenge. The righteous will defend his wife, his family, his

friends, his neighbors, Children, the poor, the needy, the fatherless, the weak, afflicted, and his animals.

### **So if I am NOT to commit murder, how can I serve in the military or law enforcement?**

Murder (is a matter of an evil heart) and Killing are NOT the same thing! Again, refer to Romans 13, as you are an agent of the government, thus an agent of God and licensed to use deadly force when called upon, per the Lord Jesus, according to the Laws of the land put in place by Christ Jesus Himself.

**Joshua 1:9** *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."* –

### **So If I can't gossip, how do I talk about others in a Godly way to help them?**

**ONE COMMON SOURCE OF HATE FOR OTHERS IS GOSSIP OF THE TONGUE...** **Gossip is defined as talking about another person and saying anything you wouldn't say if they were in the room with you...**

**Rom. 14:4** *Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.*

**James 4:11-12** *Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. <sup>12</sup> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; **but who are you who judge your neighbor?***

**When James speaks of "THE LAW" he is speaking of the "Royal Law" of LOVE/AGAPE for one another...**

**James 2:8** *If, however, you are **fulfilling the royal law** according to the Scripture, **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself,"** you are doing well.*

**James, then continues in guarding our tongue from GOSSIP here...**

**James 5:9** *Do not complain, brethren, against one another, **so that you yourselves may not be judged**; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.*

**James 3:5-6** *So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup> **And the***

*tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.*

1. Always consider going directly to the source to resolve personal issues
2. Seeking wise counsel for guidance in helping another or resolving an issue if limited and confidential is NOT gossip AS LONG AS YOUR MOTIVES ARE RIGHT!
3. ALWAYS go vertical with the Holy Spirit before ever going horizontal

**Q: If someone continually sins against you are you not a fool to allow them to do so OR are you not a fool to continue to forgive them.....AND are you not wise to distance yourself from them.....**

**WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT TELLING YOU????**

Forgiveness of others is commanded by God, but it is also “NOT” PERMISSION to continue to allow others to harm you... a wise person uses “Boundaries” (not of your love, but what is permissible in the relationship) to prevent another person from continually creating chaos with you or your loved ones, **BUT ONLY AFTER** you have gone to them directly (Matt 18) and exhausted ALL possibilities for agape restoration as in ALL your other relationships.

**Prov. 1:5** *A wise man will hear and increase in learning,  
And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel*

