

I. Intro

II. Intro Video

III. Welcome

IV. WE

- A. Constant pull
 - 1. Pick a side
 - 2. Be against the other side
 - 3. Be constantly vigilant, monitoring our preferred news feed [Different news organization logos popping up? Ex. fox, cnn, msnb, huffington, drudge?] and waiting for a chance to pounce during in-person conversations or checking Fb/Insta every 5 min. to Make sure they don't get any kind of win... foothold.
 - 4. Problems always stem from the other side or people who just don't get our side and are just wrong.
 - 5. Why you might have tried to argue with me a bit in this series.
 - 1) Filtering it through your side?
 - 2) Unrealistic, trying and failing to please everyone, when everyone compromises nobody gets what they want
 - 3) Both sides arguing w/ us?????
- B. A Better Way than Polarization/hate/yelling over each other
 - 1. Transforming the way we **think** (no big deal)... **coffee cup in sink**
 - 2. Choosing to put people over viewpoints
 - 3. Actively loving enemies through the love of Jesus.
 - 4. Asking... **What does love look like?**
- C. What keeps many people from fully embracing this way...
 - 1. Seems like we never get to win.
 - 2. If we always put people over viewpoints, then they won't ever hear the TRUTH.
- D. If I don't stand up for myself or view... who will?
 - 1. Who's going to look out for me if I don't?
 - 2. We can't let THEM win!
- E. Even harder when they have harmed you or are intent on harming us or our side
 - 1. They need to know they are wrong!
 - 2. They need to make up for what they did, get what they deserve.
- F. There's a better way to win
 - 1. Counter intuitive
- G. Ridiculous- **The quickest path to winning is by giving up your right to win.**

V. GOD

- A. **Romans**/Paul/ 20 yrs / Center of world power, etc.

1. Writing to JF's Non-JF's: off hook (But, if you are exhausted by being a part of the fighting, you can try what Paul is suggesting and if it doesn't work for you, you can just go back to doing what you were doing, no-one will even know!)
2. Roman culture... probably one of the dumbest things Paul ever wrote.

B. 17a- Never pay back evil with more evil.

1. But that's the way the world works...
 - a. Animals retaliate
 - b. Kids/Spouses retaliate
 - c. Oldest **laws/Hammurabi** /1750 BC- Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth. Current laws mirror this- you harm me, I sue the pants off you!
 - d. Social Media
 - e. You did this to me... I have **the right** to do it back to you.
2. But what does that actually do? Creates more evil.
 - a. "You hit me harder than I hit you."
 - b. "I was right in the first place... now I have a right to get you back. "
 - c. Wars / Genocide / Nasty divorces
3. But for JF's our thinking has been changed. Let God transform your thinking **New thinking leads to new actions.**
4. So if our thinking is transformed... Instead of thinking of revenge what should our focus be?

C. 17b-18 Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

1. Lead, go first to honor to everyone, respect, value as a human in God's image
2. Look out for their good.
3. **Do all YOU can**- "As much as it depends on you."
4. You can only control you.
5. You can't force someone to respect, honor, listen to you.
6. You can only do your part... that is all that is expected of you.
7. **Mom**- "If at the end of the day Jesus is happy with you... you're good."
8. Ok got it... what does love look like...
9. BUT... You said there was a way to win!?
10. Sorry almost forgot... here you go...
11. Not going to be easy.

D. V. 19 Dear friends, never take revenge ["BUT!!!" hold on], **Leave that** [justice for you] **to the righteous anger of God.** [Then goes back to Israel's founding document] **For Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord.**

1. If you don't look out for you who will? God says **he** will.
 - a. "But I have to do something! Otherwise _____ is going to happen!"
 - b. You sure think a lot of your powers to orchestrate world events.
2. **The need for revenge comes from a lack of trust.**
3. Think about it... **if** God exists, loves you enough to die for you, will never leave you, sees you, knows you, and cares for you... why do you have to fight for YOUR rights?
4. **Leave that**- "Leave room for God's righteous anger."
5. **When you take revenge you give up your right to justice.**
6. B/C you become just as guilty as the original offender.

7. **Kids fighting**- “Don’t retaliate b/c then I have to give you consequences too. Leave room for me to step in.”
8. What do you think will bring better justice.... Your petty retaliation or God’s righteous, all-knowing, all-powerful justice?
9. So we leave room for God to work... trust him to act on our behalf, and we don’t have to fight for ourselves to change hearts, minds, circumstances...
10. And when you do that you start becoming part of the solution... you start winning.

11. Trust frees you to love your enemy.

- E. V. 20 *Instead, “If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink [so they just win again? So argumentative today]. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.”***
1. Shame- realizing they were wrong, losing face... try to accuse you and argue with you in public and in their heads... and they have nothing to attack you with.
 2. They only see you loving them... so frustrating... burning coals... constantly nagging at them. They can’t even win their fake shower arguments.
 3. It’s not to destroy them but to so they can see what love looks like... even when attacked.
 4. Then Paul sums up this whole chapter we’ve been talking about...
 5. You really want to win... you want a powerful way to change the world?
- F. V. 21a *Don’t let evil conquer you...***
1. Usual- “Oh I won’t. I’m gonna fight the evil I see out there!”
 2. That’s how evil wins... it changes you... it convinces you to use it for your own “good”.
 3. **Evil wins by convincing us to use it [evil?] for our “good”.**
 4. I can attack them, reputation, etc. b/c I’m in the right. My cause is GOOD
 5. Quinn bugging brothers to get them to retaliate so they get in trouble...
 6. When you’re attacked, mistreated, etc... you have two choices.
 7. Be changed, become hard, fight for your own justice, become the problem or you can overcome...
 8. You can be conquered or be a conqueror.
- G. V. 21 *Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.***
1. **Good conquers evil when people do good to those who insist on evil.**
- H. But is there ever a good time to fight?**
1. In the Biblical writings there are many many times that it's good to make a stand... but it's never for yourself.
 2. Love is standing for the weak, defenseless, voiceless... using your resources, blessings, strength to defend those who need it the most.
 3. Slavery/Nazis needed to be fought. **Union soldiers / US GI’s?**
 4. But if love was used in the first place... there wouldn’t have been slaves.
 5. If love was used instead of revenge... **League of Nations** Germany would not have been so weakened and humiliated after WW1 that it wouldn’t have been ripe for a madman like Hitler to take power.
 6. Sometimes love means fighting to defend... but love is stronger than that...
 7. **Love can destroy the unseen roots of evil**

- A. What do we do?
- B. **I choose love.**
 - 1. To remind yourself.
- C. Maybe it's time to choose the real source of real love- Jesus.
 - 1. Let him start transforming you.
 - 2. Reach out to us, email
 - 3. DM
 - 4. Transform on fb
- D. Not ready, but interested in who Jesus really was and where all this started?
 - 1. **Subscribe** and watch the next few weeks.

VII. WE

- A. We all want to win... we want justice...
- B. But winning often means... someone else must lose, you might win an argument but lose a relationship, and in the end they win anyway b/c they were able to change you and make you part of the endless cycle.
- C. You end up wasting your life hating and plotting revenge instead of living the life you always dreamed of.
- D. But there's a way for both of you to win...
 - 1. Jesus' way allows you to let go of hate, fear, the poison of bitterness, and anger... it frees you to love... instead of an enemy you have a friend
 - 2. You've built a bridge instead of a wall
- E. And they win b/c they experience the love of God through you.
 - 1. they are freed from the stress, anger of having you opposing them... which makes them more willing to listen, and be open to what you have to say.
- F. There's a better way... let's walk it together.

G. Change begins when we begin to change how we love.

VIII. OUTRO

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Giveaway winner: Laurie C Truffle Shuffle

Next Giveaway Honey & Pine

Questions

- 1. What stood out to you the most in this week's message? Was there anything that challenged, inspired, bothered, or encouraged you?
- 2. Read Philippians 2:1-8. How could we apply this passage to what we are seeing around us lately?
- 3. Choose a relationship in your life in which you want to love differently. What's your plan to do that this week?