

If we have died to self, how should that affect how we interact with other people?

Matthew 5:38-42 (NIV)

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' ³⁹ But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

⁴⁰ And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.

⁴¹ If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

What was God's intention when he told the Israelites "eye for an eye?"

Exodus 21:23-25 (NIV)

But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, ²⁴ eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵ burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

Genesis 4:23-24 (NIV)

Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me. ²⁴ If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times."

Have there been times when you've been tempted to get revenge? Did you give in or show restraint?

Is Jesus contradicting what was written in Exodus 21?

Why would Jesus say these things? Isn't there a danger of the person being taken advantage of?

Have there been times when turning the other cheek turned out not to be the best solution?

Is Jesus saying we should give in to every oppressor?

Were there times when Jesus did not turn the other cheek?

What is Jesus raising as a priority in each of the Matthew 5 verses?

The early church struggled with dying to self:

1 Corinthians 6:1-7 (NIV)

If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? ² Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! ⁴ Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church! ⁵ I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? ⁶ But instead, one brother goes to law against another--and this in front of unbelievers!

⁷ The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

What is the main point Paul is trying to communicate?

Does that mean we should just always give up and never work things through?

Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV)

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

How might this scripture free us to not worry about having our needs or expectations met?

SPIRIT-FILLED SUBMISSION***Ephesians 5:18,21 (NIV)***

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

²¹[Submitting] to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives submitting to husbands	Eph 5:22
Husbands submitting to wives	Eph 5:25
Children submitting to parents	Eph 6:1
Parents submitting to children	Eph 6:4
Slaves submitting to masters	Eph 6:5
Masters submitting to slaves	Eph 6:9

Why do you think submitting to one another is an outflow of the Spirit-filled life?

Why do we find submission to others so difficult?

Jesus' Example of Submission***John 13:3-15 (NIV)***

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Why did Peter struggle with the idea of Jesus washing his feet?

Why did Jesus wash his disciples' feet?

How can we translate the principle of feet washing into today's culture?

**Why is it sometimes easier to serve someone else as opposed to letting someone else serve you?
What sinful barriers must we allow the Holy Spirit to break down in our lives so we can allow
ourselves to serve and be served?**

What would our church be like if it were filled with non-complaining, servant-hearted feet-washers?

**Do you find it is easy to slip back into a perspective of an "others should serve me" mentality?
How can we prevent that from happening?**

How can we cultivate this attitude more deeply within our church?

How can we personally commit this week to being a feet-washer?