

A HEALTHY CHURCH (PART 2): PERSECUTE THEM WITH LOVE

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:15

April 12, 2015

INTRODUCTION

- Retaliation is the default response of fallen humanity (of the flesh).
- We must respond to everyone in a way consistent with our new nature (of the Spirit).
- In 1 Thessalonians 5:15 Paul exhorts three steps all Believers must take in response to those who hurt us.

I. Do not retaliate with evil (vs. 15a).

- A) Because it usurps the place of God.
- B) Be willing to suffer wrong.

II. Persecute them with Love (vs. 15b).

- A) Always seek after that which is good.
- B) Be willing to Forgive.
- C) Because it achieves sanctification.

III. Show no partiality (vs. 15c).

- A) To those inside the fellowship.
- B) To those outside the fellowship.

CONCLUSION

- How can we follow these steps?
 - By remembering what you deserve for your sin.
 - By remembering that Christ did this for you.