

Intro – Dealing with offenses is long and complex but doing so as a Christian is even more difficult.

* The New Testament gives us a variety of strategies in dealing with those who offend us.

Non-Christian Enemies – Matthew 5:39

Jesus' demand is more clearly explained in Romans 12:17-21.

1. Don't make _____

2. Don't escalate _____

3. Overcome _____

Our responsibility towards our non-Christian enemy is not justice but rather _____.

What about the "state" as an enemy?

1. Acts 25:1-ff _____

2. Acts 5:17 _____

3. Acts 8:4 _____

When a Christian Offends – Luke 17:1-4

The objective when a Christian is the enemy is _____, not witness.

Various situations are dealt with in the New Testament where a Christian is the enemy:

1. The _____ offender – Luke 17:1-4

2. The _____ offender – Matthew 18:15-20

a. Go _____

b. Bring _____

c. Tell _____

d Turn _____

3. The _____ offender – Luke 11:4

a. Feel bad _____

b. Tell them _____

c. Forgive _____

4. The offender is _____ – Matthew 5:23-24

We have negative ways to deal with this: _____

* With members of the church the objective is not to win the argument, the objective is to win the _____.

Summary / Invitation

- Love is the basic reaction
- However, God demands the most difficult expression of that love when dealing with our enemies (1 Peter 4:8)

- What do you need to do in dealing with your enemies?

- a. Give up fighting? _____
- b. Deny your pride? _____
- c. Seek forgiveness? _____

* Will you be going to them or coming to Jesus today?