

Northern Hills Community Church

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“The Relationship Principles of Jesus”

Principle #5: Think of Others as More Important than Yourself

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“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...” Philippians 2:3-5

- **Two attitudes guaranteed to kill a relationship:**
 1. **Selfish Ambition:** What will I GET?
 2. **Vain conceit:** How will I LOOK?
- **In Order to ACT like others are more important you must:**
 1. **GIVE YOUR RIGHTS AWAY**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also...” Matthew 5:38-39

The legal way of righting wrongs: JUSTICE

“An eye for an eye...”

(Exodus 21:23-25; Leviticus 24:19-20; Deuteronomy 19:21)

Jesus’ way of righting relationships: LOVE

The Practical Question: Do I always demand FAIRNESS?

- Those who have to have everything fair suffer from a terrible lack of CONFIDENCE in relationships.
- Fairness creates DISTANCE in relationships.
- Fairness always ends up in LAWS, RULES, and REGULATIONS.

Jesus applies this principle in three practical ways:

1. If someone slaps you on the right cheek: In the case of an INSULT.

Turn the other cheek: VULNERABILITY

2. If someone wants to sue you and take your tunic: In the case of a DISPUTE.

Let him have your cloak: BIBLICAL MEAKNESS

3. If someone forces you to go one mile: In the case of a DEMAND

Go with him two miles: SERVICE

“... have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:5

“Love your enemies... that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” Matthew 5:44-45