

NEW RELATIONSHIPS

How to breathe life into your relationships:

Don't respond to _____.

Don't respond to your _____.

Respond to _____.

Another way to look at it: Fight _____ instead of _____.

Some _____ ways to respond:

- Turn the other cheek. (Matt. 5:39)
- Overcome evil with good. (Rom. 12:20-21)
- Go the extra mile. (Matt. 5:41)
- Love and pray for your enemy. (Matt. 5:44)
- Bless those who curse you. (Luke 6:28; Rom. 12:14)
- Overlook offenses. (Prov. 12:16; 19:11)
- Answer gently. (Prov. 15:1)
- Don't argue. (Phil. 2:14; 2 Tim. 2:14; Titus 3:1)
- Forgive when they don't deserve it. (Matt. 18:22)
- Be willing to be wronged and cheated. (1 Cor. 6:7)
- Value others as better than yourself. (Phil. 2:3; Rom. 12:10)
- Don't yell, swear, or cuss. (Eph. 4:29)
- Don't curse them under your breath. (James 3:9)
- Don't make threats. (1 Peter 2:23)
- Don't take revenge. (Rom. 12:19)
- Do to others as you'd want them to do. (Matt. 7:12)

God is calling us into a _____ way of responding.

Matthew 5:38-48 "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 anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³ You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be children 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.⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

1 Corinthians 3:3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?

Jesus _____ a different way of responding.

Matthew 26:51-53 With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁵² "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

Matthew 27:12 When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer.

Matthew 27:22 "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

Matthew 27:28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰ They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹ After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Matthew 27:39-43 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴² "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'

Our calling is to _____ Jesus.

1 Peter 2:18-25 Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." ²⁵ For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.