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|  |  | Dr. Larry OsborneFebruary 19-20, 2022Message #7 / 1 Samuel 20 |
|  | northcoastchurch.com/sermons |

**When The Other Side Won’t Play Fair**

**Groundhog Day:**

1 Samuel 20

**How To Respond When The Other Side Won’t Play Fair**

Romans 12:17-21

1. Remember, you can’t **CONTROL** how others **RESPOND.**

 You can **CONTROL** how you **RESPOND**.

 James 1:13-16

2. **ALWAYS** return **GOOD** for **EVIL**.

 Romans 12:17/ 1 Peter 3:9

3. **GO TOWARD** your enemies.

 Romans 12:18/ Romans 5:8

4. Avoid **TOXIC** and **DANGEROUS** people.

 Romans 12:18/ 1 Samuel 20:5-32/ Proverbs 22:24, Psalm 1:1, 1 Corinthians 15:33, Titus 3:10,

 2 John 1:10/ John 7:1-7 & Acts 9:22-25

5. Never personally **RETALIATE**. Let **GOD** be **GOD**.

 Romans 12:19/ 1 Peter 2:21-23

6. Keep your eyes on the **END GAME**.

 Romans 12:20-21/ Psalm 73

The best way to connect with us is the Connection Card in the bulletin. For the Digital Bulletin, visit [myncc.info](https://myncc.info/).

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 You can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_how you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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 Romans 12:17/ 1 Peter 3:9

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**Life Group Study Questions**

**For the week of February 20, 2022**

 **Quick review**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

 **my story**

1. This week we heard about the “you made me do this” myth, meaning blaming others for how we respond. Unfortunately, our response remains on us, not someone else. What’s one of those silly examples of what others do that pushes your buttons or triggers a less than desirable response by you?

2. Larry gave us six responses in this weekend’s teaching on how to move forward when the other side isn’t playing fair. Which two were most important for you to hear and why?

 **Digging deeper**

1. All of us encounter people who are challenging for us to love. Larry gave some great references and examples of how to move toward them in a positive way, control our responses and return good for evil. What additional help do the following verses give us to put all of these into action?

***Ephesians 4:29******New International Version (NIV)***

***29****Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

***Matthew 5:41-47******New International Version (NIV)
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?*

***Proverbs 15:1******New International Version (NIV)***

*A gentle answer turns away wrath,
    but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

***Proverbs 25:21-22******New International Version (NIV)***

***21****If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat;
    if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.****22****In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head,
    and the Lord will reward you.*

***Galatians 6:9******New International Version (NIV)***

***9****Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

***Titus 3:9******New International Version (NIV)***

***9****But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.*

Which of these is most helpful for you when it comes to showing love to those who oppose you or cause you difficulty?

Can you think of any additional specific examples of how to love these people in real and practical ways? What does that look like?

2. We also saw this weekend that loving our enemies does not mean putting ourselves in toxic or dangerous situations. David knew his life was in danger with Saul, so he fled. Knowing when to engage with someone or when to draw a tight boundary can be challenging for everyone. How do the following verses reinforce the importance of this kind of boundary?

***Titus 3:10******New International Version (NIV)***

***10****Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them.*

***Ephesians 5:6-11 New International Version (NIV)***

***6****Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.****7****Therefore do not be partners with them.*

***8****For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light****9****(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)****10****and find out what pleases the Lord.****11****Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.*

***2 Timothy 3:1-5******New International Version (NIV)***

*But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.****2****People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,****3****without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,****4****treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—****5****having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.*

What catches your eye the most in regard to setting boundaries and not falling into the trap of toxic or dangerous relationships or settings?

Is there anything in these verses you yourself need to be careful not to do in order to love others and be a safe person for them?

*\*A mark of a safe person is someone who allows others to speak into their life in areas of concern. How are you doing at this?*

 **taking it home**

1. Looking back on this week’s sermon and study, what’s most important for you to remember?

2. Is there a challenging situation you’re in that you need prayer for to discern next steps for yourself or someone else?

 **prayer requests**

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|  | **NORTH COAST CHURCH WOMEN’S CONFERENCE**Women of all ages and stages – this event is for YOU! Join the women of North Coast Church March 18 & 19 at the Vista Campus as we dig into the theme, ***Freedom in Christ***. Enjoy worship, prayer, breakout sessions and many fun activities! For more details and to register, visit [northcoastchurch.com/womens-conference/](http://www.northcoastchurch.com/womens-conference/).  |