

October 30th, How to End the Cycle
Part 7 in the series 'Human'

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

One way that we are made in God's image is that we desire justice. How is this desire a good thing, and how does it get us in trouble?

Have you ever fantasized about "winning" a conversation with someone?

Gabe pointed out that revenge is rarely about "getting even." Usually, it escalates in intensity. Why do you think that is?

What does the story of the good Samaritan teach us about loving our enemies?

Read Matthew 5:43-48

"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?"

Read Romans 12:17-21

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. **18** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. **19** Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. **20** On the contrary:

'If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.'

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

What is the secret to ending the cycle of hurt people hurting other people?

How is forgiving a hurt different from ignoring it or saying that it was okay?

In what way is forgiveness unfair?

If you choose not to forgive, how fair is the alternative?

Romans 5:10 states that we were God's enemies. What made us His enemies?

God is the only one with the authority to execute perfect justice on His enemies. When we were His enemies, how did He treat us?

What did you think of the video testimonies of forgiveness from people in Rwanda?

Can you think of other examples of forgiveness that have been powerful?

How did you respond to the forgiveness cards that were handed out?