

## Never Take Your Own Revenge

We have all seen it – offense turns to anger, anger turns to hatred then hatred becomes revenge, which turns into action – often violent. As our nation mourns the unspeakable tragedy of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, heads wag, fingers point, and commentators opine, but no one is discussing the genuine reality of simple evil.

Our modern culture sees events and preferences but rejects the actual reality of good and evil. Why? Moral good and evil go against the prevailing atheistic principles that allow immorality to become the norm! (Oh my! If we go back to biblical principles we might outlaw abortion, homosexual marriage and gender-neutral bathrooms!)

But the unintended consequence of attempting to throw God out of our culture is that it also throws out the morality of respecting life. If we descended from worms, lizards and monkeys (as our children are taught in schools) then there is no God, no heaven or hell, no punishment and certainly no universal truth or set of morals.

Therefore, by that standard, to kill another human is no different than a lion killing a zebra or a young male gorilla killing the aging patriarch of the troupe. We don't pass a moral judgment on the lion and atheists have no real basis for universal, moral judgment of murder. *It's just survival of the fittest!*

But if a teacher brings a Bible to class and reads the words of Jesus we have a Constitutional crisis. ***Yet that is where the answer is!***

When I was in high school, many had guns in the back window of the pickup – yet no one shot anyone! What changed? We kicked God and His book out of the schools. We had a prayer and the pledge of allegiance every morning over the PA system. ***Not today!***

In **Matthew 7:12**, Jesus said, ***“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you....”*** Why not teach that today? ***Oh my, NO! That is in the Bible! We can't teach that!***

Make no mistake, until we do, the unintended consequence will be the mass carnage that we now reap because we have sown the wind and are reaping a whirlwind! ***It's the heart, not the hardware.***

God said, “Never take you own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God” (**Romans 12:19**). When we etch that indelibly on our children's hearts we will begin to overcome this scourge of hate, revenge and violence, in our homes, our schools and our nation.

-Ray Wallace