

LOVE

Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

63 – Kindness

WE'VE SEEN IN THE PAST ...

(when looking at previous verses)

False teachers (and confused people)

DISTORT

THE BIBLE'S CONCEPTS OF JUSTICE AND PUNISHMENT.

- ✓ They often treat them as "bad" or "negative" concepts that we should avoid.
- ✓ Many claim they are "Old Testament concepts," that have been replaced by kindness and forgiveness in the New Testament.

Guess what!

False teachers (& confused people)

ALSO DISTORT

THE BIBLE'S CONCEPTS OF KINDNESS AND FORGIVENESS.

- ✓ They often treat them as "good" or "positive" concepts that cancel anything the Bible may say about justice and punishment.
- ✓ Many claim they are "New Testament concepts," that aren't really a part of the Old Testament.

In reality...

ALL of these concepts are a part of
 BOTH Old and New Testaments.

LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES MAY BE DIFFERENT IN THE TWO TESTAMENTS...

- ⇒ But GOD DID NOT CHANGE...
- ⇒ and neither did the moral principles.

THE OLD TESTAMENT IS ABOUT JUDGMENT AND PUNISHMENT; THE NEW TESTAMENT IS ABOUT KINDNESS AND FORGIVENESS!

SO WE CAN IGNORE THE OLD TESTAMENT!

BELIEVE THE BIBLE,
NOT THE FALSE
TEACHERS!

THE OLD
TESTAMENT IS
ALSO ABOUT
KINDNESS AND
FORGIVENESS!



HOW THE "OLD TESTAMENT GOD" DESCRIBES HIMSELF

"The Lord, the Lord, a compassionate and merciful God, patient, always faithful and ready to forgive. He continues to show his love to thousands of generations, forgiving wrongdoing, disobedience, and sin.

He never lets the guilty go unpunished, punishing children and grandchildren for their parents' sins to the third and fourth generation."

Exodus 34:6b-7 (GW)

Note the contrast!

"The Lord, the Lord, a compassionate and merciful God, patient, always faithful and ready to forgive. He continues to show his love to thousands of generations, forgiving wrongdoing, disobedience, and sin. He never lets the guilty go unpunished, punishing children and grandchildren for their parents' sins to the third and fourth generation."

Exodus 34:6b-7 (GW)

1000's vs. 3-4

GOD'S #1 FOCUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT ERA:
Compassion, mercy, patience, faithfulness, forgiving...

BUT HE ALSO WARNS US AGAINST TREATING SIN LIGHTLY:
It's a serious matter that affects others. (Children tend to repeat their parent's sin, so they tend to reap similar consequences.)

Note that the N.T. also warns against treating sin lightly

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ... for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

Romans 1:18; 2:8 (NIV)

It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. ... for our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 10:31; 12:29 (NASB)

**** And MANY other passages. ****

We are going to look at what the "Old Testament God" told his people to do.

↓

How did he tell them to live?

- ✓ Vengeful?
- ✓ Cruel?
- ✓ Harsh?
- ✓ Mean?
- ✓ Vindictive?

Some of those false teachers would like you to think that the "Old Testament God" was this way!

This "Old Testament God" told his people to follow HIS example.

Compassionate, merciful, patient, faithful, forgiving...

↓

✓ **HE OPPOSES VENGEFUL CONDUCT**

Never seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

Leviticus 19:18 (NLT)

➤ The "neighbor" in this passage obviously includes one's enemies. People don't seek revenge against friends!

[HINT!]

This Old Testament verse:

Never seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

Leviticus 19:18 (NLT)

↓

Strongly parallels our New Testament passage:

Do not take revenge, my friends, ... "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink."

Romans 12:19a, 20a (NIV)

This "Old Testament God" told his people to follow HIS example.

Compassionate, merciful, patient, faithful, forgiving...

↓

✓ **HE ENCOURAGES GRACIOUS AND KIND LIVING**

A gracious woman gets honor, ... A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself.

Proverbs 11:16a, 17 (ESV)

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A "NEW TESTAMENT" CONCEPT!

This "Old Testament God" told his people to follow HIS example.

Compassionate, merciful, patient, faithful, forgiving...

↓

✓ **HE ENCOURAGES KINDNESS TOWARD THE POOR**

Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but those who help the poor honor him.
Proverbs 14:31 (NLT)

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A "NEW TESTAMENT" CONCEPT!

[Note the similarities!]

This Old Testament verse:

Whoever has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his good deed.
Proverbs 19:17 (GW)

↓

Strongly parallels what Jesus taught in the New Testament:

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' "
Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

This "Old Testament God" told his people to follow HIS example.

Compassionate, merciful, patient, faithful, forgiving...

↓

✓ **HE ENCOURAGES ACTS OF KINDNESS TOWARD ENEMIES**

If you come upon your enemy's ox or donkey that has strayed away, take it back to its owner.
Exodus 23:4 (NLT)

➤ This instruction was given to illustrate a *principle* – a typical example of kindness that the people would have easily understood.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A "NEW TESTAMENT" CONCEPT!

This "Old Testament God" told his people to follow HIS example.

Compassionate, merciful, patient, faithful, forgiving...

↓

✓ **HE TELLS US TO NOT REJOICE IN AN ENEMY'S MISFORTUNE**

Don't gloat when your enemy falls, and don't let your heart rejoice when he stumbles, or the LORD will see, be displeased, and turn His wrath away from him.
Proverbs 24:17-18 (HCSB)

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A "NEW TESTAMENT" CONCEPT!

[HINT!]

The warning in this Old Testament passage:

... or the LORD will see, [and] be displeased [of you] and turn His wrath away from him [your enemy].
Proverbs 24:18 (HCSB)

↓

Is "echoed" in our New Testament passage:

... leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.
Romans 12:19b (NIV)

➤ When you rejoice in his misfortune, there is no longer room for God's wrath!

[People in the O.T. understood this!]

Don't gloat when your enemy falls ...
Proverbs 24:17a (HCSB)

↓

Job's example:

If I have rejoiced at my enemy's misfortune or gloated over the trouble that came to him-- I have not allowed my mouth to sin by invoking a curse against his life ...
Job 31:29-30 (NIV)

➤ He was asking God to punish him if he ever committed this sin!

This "Old Testament God" told his people to follow HIS example.

Compassionate, merciful, patient, faithful, forgiving...

✓ ANOTHER VERSE WHERE GOD TELLS US TO BE KIND TO ENEMIES

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

Proverbs 25:21-22 (NIV)

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A "NEW TESTAMENT" CONCEPT!

DOES THIS O.T. PASSAGE SOUND FAMILIAR?

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

Proverbs 25:21-22 (NIV)

IT SHOULD!

It is QUOTED in our New Testament passage!

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."

Romans 12:20 (NIV)

- Paul is telling us to follow the example and instructions of the "Old Testament God" – who happens to also be the "New Testament God"!

WHAT CAN WE CONCLUDE?

Though there are differences in circumstances, in Old and New Testaments...

- ✓ The same God gave them both.
- ✓ Our moral obligations remain unchanged.
- ✓ Our obligation to be kind to our enemies does not contradict the need for justice; for both concepts are found in Scripture – in both Old and New Testaments!

NEXT

TIME: If a false teacher (or confused person) tells you that the Old and New Testaments promote "opposite" moral perspectives

- ✓ You will know better than to believe them.
- ✓ If they have a teachable spirit, you might be able to show them the truth!

Our obligation to be kind to our enemies is a moral obligation

It has always been a moral obligation, for all people at all times!

- Even when pursuing justice, because of wrongs that have been committed.

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

Proverbs 25:21-22 (NIV)

The
PAST
obligation
for all people

The
PRESENT
obligation
for all people

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."

Romans 12:20 (NIV)

Your Mission...

OUR OBLIGATION TO BE KIND IS NOT NEW!

Godly people in the past have fulfilled this obligation.

Make it your goal to follow their example!

For whatever was written in former days was
written for our instruction, that through
endurance and through the encouragement
of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15:4 (ESV)

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Your Mission...

The Old and New Testaments were written for *different circumstances*.

- ✓ A focus on a *nation* (which included unsaved individuals) vs. saved *individuals*.
- ✓ Given by God *before* vs. *after* Jesus' death/resurrection.
- ✓ Different ceremonial ("religious") regulations, based on the different covenants the people were under (see below).

But they both express the *same* moral obligations and describe the *same* nature of reality. We need to accept all that God has given us!

A RANDOM COLLECTION OF NEW TESTAMENT CONCEPTS THAT ARE TAKEN DIRECTLY OUT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

- God would introduce a "new covenant" to replace the "old covenant" - Jeremiah 31:31-34 → Hebrews 8:8-13; 9:15.
- We are to love God completely - Deuteronomy 6:5 → Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30-33; Luke 10:27.
- We are to love our neighbors as ourselves - Leviticus 19:18 → Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27.
- God's Word is necessary for life in its fullness ... more than food is - Deuteronomy 8:3 → Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4.
- Mercy is more important than religious activities - Hosea 6:6 → Matthew 9:13; 12:7.
- God is a consuming fire (who will destroy all who do not worship him in an acceptable way) - Deuteronomy 4:23-24 → Hebrews 12:28-29.

- We have an obligation to be holy - Leviticus 19:2; 20:7 → 1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; Hebrews 12:14.
- God disciplines those he loves - Proverbs 3:11-12 → Hebrews 12:5b-6.
- Two or three witnesses are required before an accusation of wrongdoing can be made against someone - Deuteronomy 19:15 → Matthew 18:16; 2 Corinthians 13:1.
- God created male and female; marriage involves the permanent union of a man and a woman - Genesis 1:27; 2:24 → Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9.
- Even animals deserve to be properly rewarded for work done - Deuteronomy 25:4 → 1 Corinthians 9:9-11; 1 Timothy 5:17-18 (a principle that can be applied to more than just animals).
- God will avenge and judge - Deuteronomy 32:35-36 → Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30-31.
- The righteous will live by faith - Habakkuk 2:4b → Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38.
- No human is naturally righteous and good - Ecclesiastes 7:20; Psalm 14:1-3 → Romans 3:10-12.
- God opposes those who do evil, but is favorable toward those who do good - Psalm 34:12-16 → 1 Peter 3:10-12.
- Not fearing God is a characteristic of the wicked - Psalm 36:1 → Romans 3:18.
- People will "fade away" (die) like flowers of the field; God's Word remains forever - Isaiah 40:6-8 → 1 Peter 1:24-25.
- Don't put God to the test - Deuteronomy 6:16 → Matthew 4:7.
- Do not commit adultery, murder, lie, steal, covet, dishonor your parents, etc. (from the 10 Commandments) - Exodus 20:12-17; Deuteronomy 5:16-21 → Matthew 19:18-19; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20; Romans 13:9.