

“But I say to you
who hear: Love
your enemies...”

— Luke 6:27



Rising Above Hostility and Aggression

4th Sunday of Paona

Introduction

- “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Rom. 12:21)
- Disclaimers
- How then do we respond to unwarranted hostility and insult?

1. Let your speech be seasoned with grace

- “Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.” (Col. 4:5-6)
 - How ought we answer?
- “A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.” (Prov. 15:1)

2. Be Patient

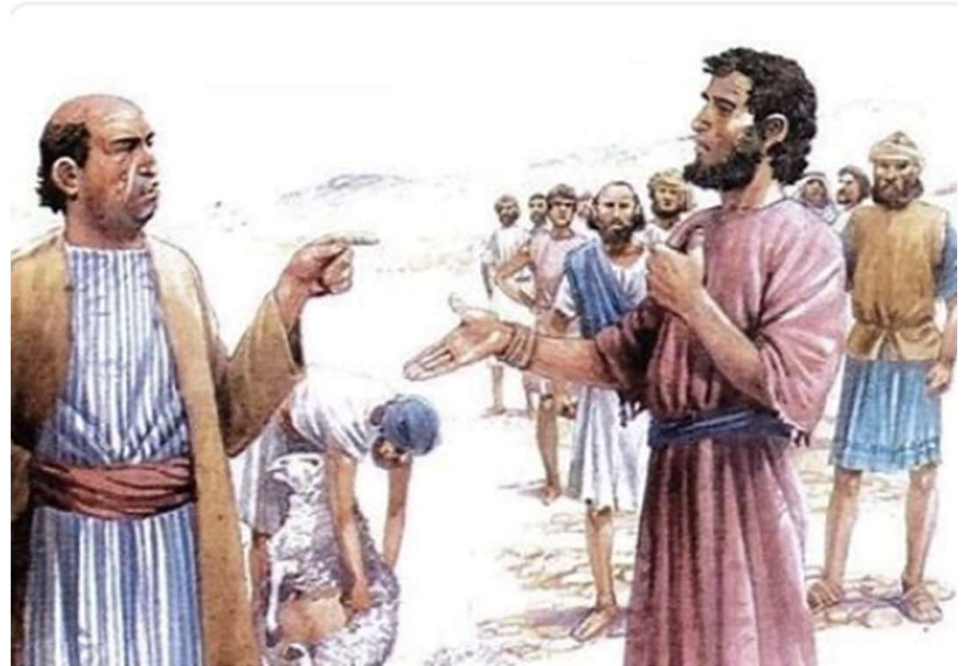
- “My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”
(Jam. 5:10-11)
- Patiently endure while the ungodly are transformed
- Transformation takes time, patience, and hard work

3. Appeal to reason, not violence

- “And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.” (Acts 18:4)
- Violence (verbal or physical) never resolves conflict but only magnifies, intensifies, and propagates more anger and wrath.

4. Refuse to retaliate

- There is a difference between reacting and responding
- EX: David and Nabal



5. Show them love

- “But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.” (Lk. 6:27-28)
- This love should be rooted in your desire for everyone’s salvation.