

THE CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING PRESENTS

**COMMANDING  
>THE HEART<**

# VENGEANCE



**MATTHEW 5:38-42**

WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2022





Centre for  
**Christian  
Living**

***Have you ever wondered*** whether it might be okay to lie in some circumstances? Have you ever battled with how to use social media well? Or have you ever had no idea what to say to a friend who asks your advice about IVF?

The Centre for Christian Living (CCL) exists to help Christians bring the teaching of the Bible to bear on these sorts of questions and the many other moments of moral decision that we face day by day.

We do this through:

- our four public events each year (like the one you're at tonight);
- the library of audio, video and text resources we're building at **ccl.moore.com.au**;
- our regular "Centre for Christian Living" podcast.

**THE CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING IS AN  
ACTIVITY OF MOORE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE**



# COMMANDING THE HEART: **VENGEANCE**

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## **PART 1: VENGEANCE** (Andrew Errington)

### Introduction: Fantasies of vengeance

#### 1. A distinctive Christian emphasis (Matt 5:38–42; Rom 12:17–19)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.” (Matthew 5:38–42)

#### 2. An eye for an eye: retribution in the Old Testament

- a. Leviticus 24:17–22 (see also Exod 19:21; Deut 19:15–21)

b. Forgiveness? (Lev 19:18; Gen 4:23–24; Matt 18:21–22)

### 3. Understanding New Testament teaching

#### a. Jesus' purpose in Matthew 5

- To push back against a misuse of the law
- To hear the law in the light of the kingdom
- Not to reject retribution in judicial punishment
- Romans 12 => Romans 13
- **Not** to provide specific advice, but to cultivate patterns of action and feeling (virtue)

## 4. Moving towards practicalities

### a. Skepticism about our culture

### b. The complexities of interpersonal forgiveness

- What we are *not* called to
- The importance of public judgement
- What we should aspire to

### c. Thinking about our moment as a church

## 5. The final word

## **PART 2: DISCUSSING PRACTICALITIES**

## **PART 3: Q&A**

### **Q&A**

To ask a question,

1. Open a web browser on your device and go to [sli.do](https://sli.do).
2. Enter the event code “retribution”.
3. Type your question, add your name (we’d prefer it if you used your real name) and click or tap “Send”.

Time-permitting, we will ask your question on your behalf.

### **2023 EVENTS**

- Is love really all you need? (Chase Kuhn; 15 March)
- The glory of true humility (David VanDrunen; 7 June public lecture)
- Virtue in an age of virtue signalling: Christian character in a characterless society (David VanDrunen; 7 June CCL event)
- Self-control in an era of self-actualisation (David Höhne; 30 August)
- The power and pain of perseverance (Mark Thompson; 18 October)

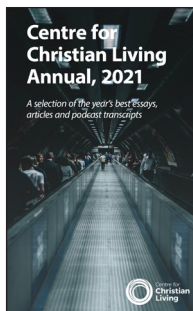
**Register online at [ccl.moore.edu.au](https://ccl.moore.edu.au).**



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## WANT MORE CCL?

Check out the Centre for Christian Living podcast with Chase Kuhn. Subscribe and find all our past episodes at  
**[ccl.moore.edu.au/podcasts/](https://ccl.moore.edu.au/podcasts/)**



## CCL ANNUAL 2021

The CCL annual is an ebook collection of essays, articles and podcast episode transcripts from last year. Find out more at  
**[ccl.moore.edu.au/tag/books/](https://ccl.moore.edu.au/tag/books/)**

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