

Love
one

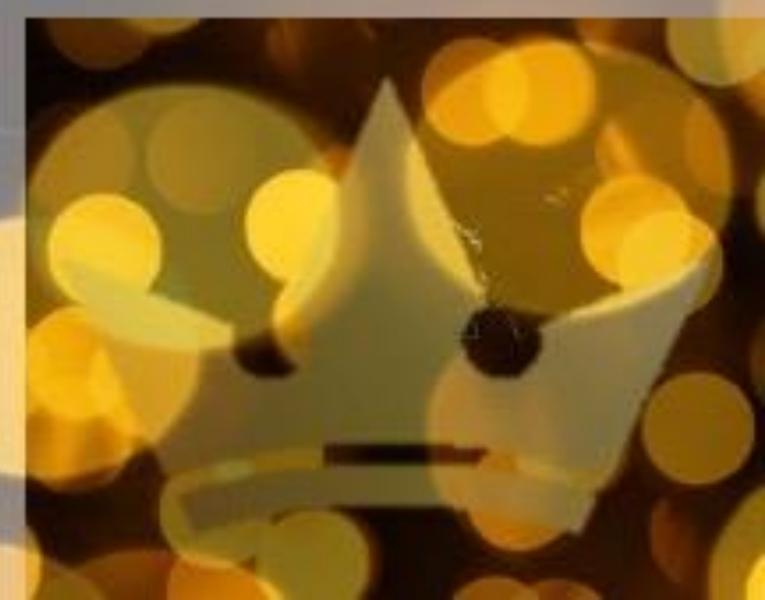
FORGIVENESS



LIVING
THE
JESUS
CREED

There are millions of people in our country (USA) who call themselves Christians because they believe the Christian life is about admiring Christ's example, not realizing it is a call to follow it.

- FRANCIS CHAN



The background is a collage of images. On the left, there are several circular bokeh lights in shades of green and gold. In the center, a pair of hands is clasped in prayer against a dark background. To the right, a lit candle is visible, with its flame glowing. At the bottom, a sign with the text 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR' is partially visible. The overall lighting is warm and spiritual.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

MATTHEW 6: 9-14



For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

MATTHEW 6: 9-14

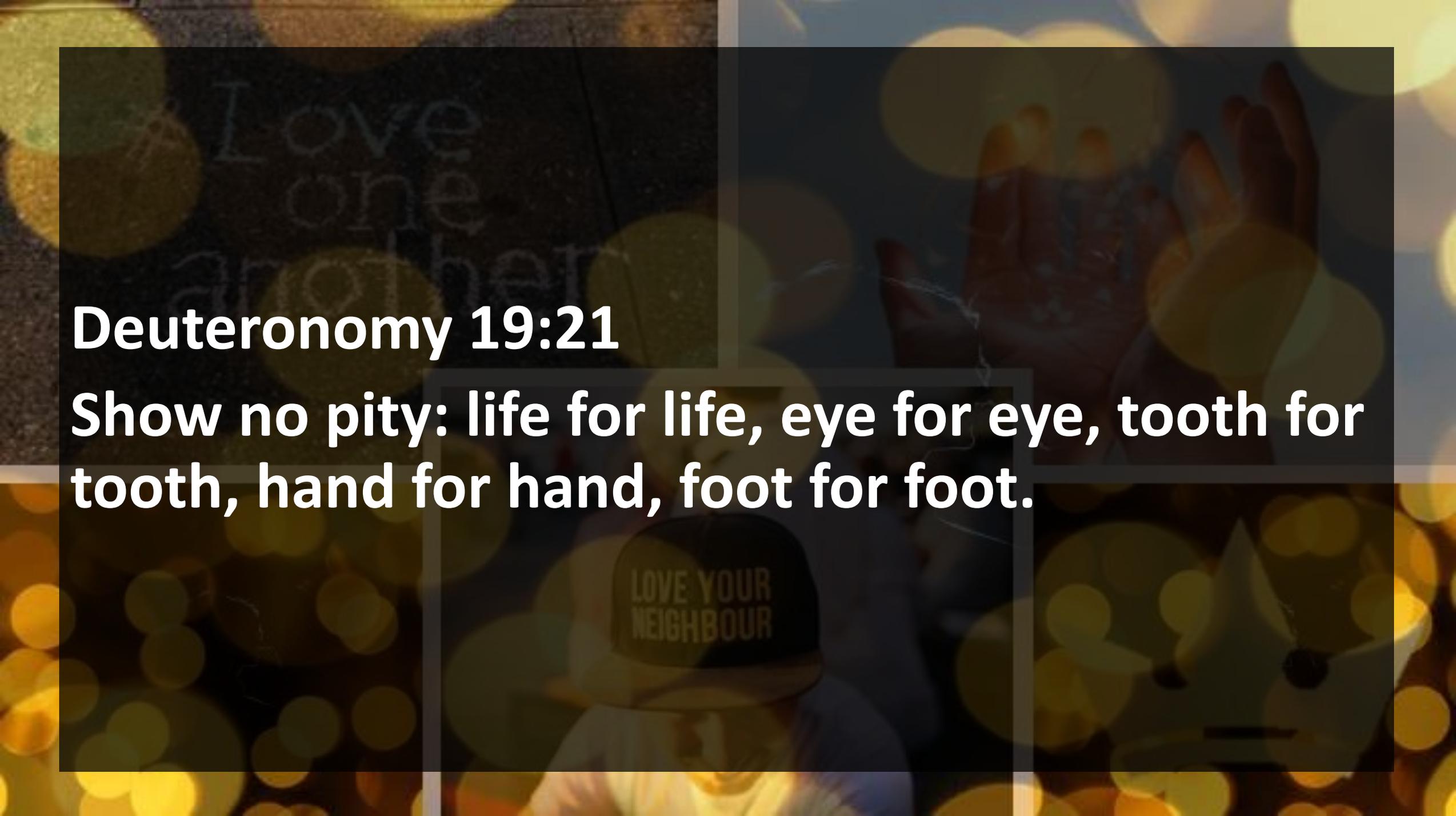
Leviticus 24: 17-22

“Anyone who takes the life of a human being is to be put to death. Anyone who takes the life of someone’s animal must make restitution —life for life. Anyone who injures their neighbor is to be injured in the same manner: fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. The one who has inflicted the injury must suffer the same injury. Whoever kills an animal must make restitution, but whoever kills a human being is to be put to death. You are to have the same law for the foreigner and the native-born. I am the Lord your God.”

Exodus 21:22-25

If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

In the sermon on the mount Jesus had already directly challenged this understanding of Justice.



Deuteronomy 19:21

Show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Matthew 5:38-39

You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.



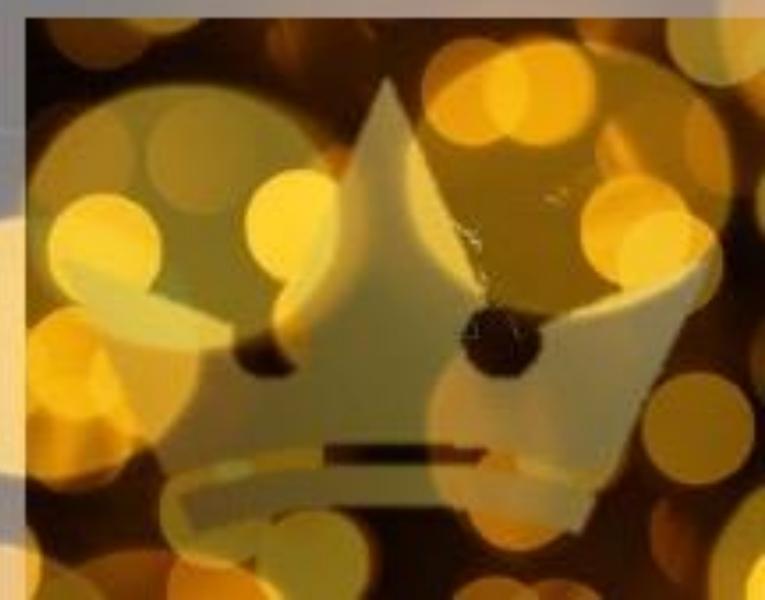
It is a **Kingdom expectation** that as we have experienced forgiveness we extend forgiveness.



The Jesus Creed manifests itself in gracious, preemptive strikes of forgiveness.

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

- Matthew 18:15-17





In the Kingdom of God we give up the right to retaliate and we choose our heart attitude.