

# BAGGAGE

## “Revenge”

### GOD HAS A REALLY, REALLY GOOD PLAN FOR YOUR RELATIONSHIPS. (Marriage/Family/Church)

- **PLAN:** Revelation
- **STRATEGY:** Unity/Oneness
- **TACTIC:** Forgiveness

<sup>20</sup> “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for **those who will believe** in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that **all of them may be one**, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us **so that the world may believe that you have sent me**. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, **that they may be one as we are one—** <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to **complete unity**. Then **the world will know that you sent me and have loved them** even as you have loved me.”  
**John 17:20-23 (NIV)**

### THE ENEMY HAS A REALLY, REALLY BAD PLAN FOR YOUR RELATIONSHIPS.

<sup>10</sup> *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*  
**John 10:10 (NIV)**

- **PLAN:** Destruction
- **STRATEGY:** Division
- **TACTIC:** Offense

<sup>23</sup> “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and **there remember that your brother or sister has something against you,** <sup>24</sup> **leave your gift there** in front of the altar. **First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.** **Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, **all** of you, be **like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.**

**1 Peter 3:8 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> Do not repay evil with evil or **insult with insult**. On the contrary, repay **evil with blessing**, because to this **you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.** <sup>10</sup> For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their **tongue from evil** and their lips from **deceitful speech.**” <sup>11</sup> They must **turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.**” **1 Peter 3:9-11 (NIV)**

## 2 WAYS TO LIVE

### 1. The Closed Fist of the Grudge (Pay Back)

*Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult...*

**1 Peter 3:9a (NIV)**

- **OFFENSE IS AN EVENT**
- **OFFENDED IS A CHOICE**

### 2. The Open Hand of Grace (Bless Back)

*...On the contrary, repay evil with **blessing**, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.*

**1 Peter 3:9b (NIV)**

<sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)**

## Truth: FORGIVEN PEOPLE FORGIVE PEOPLE

*“Forgiveness is not an occasional act. It is a permanent attitude.” - Dr. King*

*“When you forgive someone you set a prisoner free, only to discover that you’re the prisoner.” - Lewis Smedes*