

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Standing on the Promises of God - -

Psalms 36:5 Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

The Kingdom Standards of Righteousness (*continued*) - -

In review -

POD - The kingdom subject is not to retaliate but patiently endure insult and wrongdoing following the example of Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:38-42 cf. Hebrews 12:2; Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Peter 2:23).

Does this mean that the Lord does not want you to defend yourself today?

POD – Rule of Application - If a shade of application from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-7:29) is stated in the New Testament Epistles, then the shade of application applies to the Christian living today.

Note the difference in the Lord's commands as you compare **Luke 22:35-36** cf. **Matthew 10:1ff**

1st time He sent them out, He told them not to acquire currency for their money belts.

2nd time He sent them out [*after He was rejected as King*], He instructs them as follows -

Luke 22:35-38

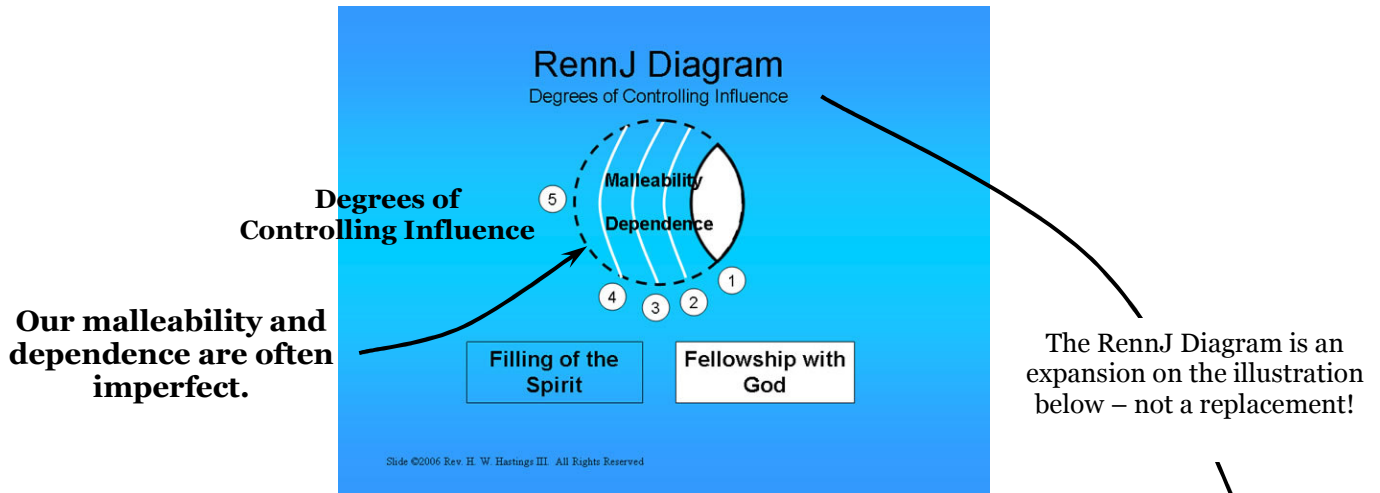
And He said to them, "When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?" They said, "No, nothing." ³⁶ And He said to them, "**But now**, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one. ³⁷ "For I tell you that this which is written must be fulfilled in Me, 'AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH TRANSGRESSORS'; for that which refers to Me has *its* fulfillment." ³⁸ They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."

- The disciples had some issues in *discerning* when it was the Lord's will to defend themselves and when it was not. . . note **John 18:10-11**.

POD - The Church Age believer must determine when it is the Lord's will to use the sword.

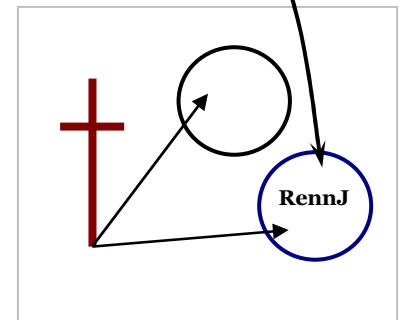
Just how does the believer today make that determination?

POD - The believer functioning in the RennJ Diagram will know when to defend himself in accordance with the mentorship of God the Holy Spirit and Bible doctrine.



Chafer, L. S. *Systematic Theology* Volume 6, Page 295

Be it remembered, too, that His provisions are always perfect, but that the Christian's entrance into these provisions is often imperfect. There is doubtless too glib a reference to human attitudes and actions in relation to God as if they were absolute, such as absolute surrender, absolute consecration, and absolute devotion. If there are well-defined conditions upon which the believer may become spiritual, let him remember that, from the standpoint of the infinite God, his compliance with those conditions is often imperfect. What God provides and bestows is in accord with the fullest divine perfection, but the Christian's adjustment is human and therefore usually subject to improvement. The fact nevertheless of the believer's possible deliverance, which depends upon the Spirit alone, does not change. The child of God will have as much at any time as he makes it possible for the Spirit to bestow.



6th Subject - Kingdom standard regarding Love (Matthew 5:43) - -

43 "You have heard that it was said [Leviticus 19:18], 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'

Leviticus 19:18 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

- > The Pharisees' doctrine was to hate your enemies – **the Gentiles**.
- > This was their application of **Deuteronomy 7:2; 23:6; 30:7**.

Deuteronomy 7:1 - 2

"When the LORD your God brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than you, ² and when the LORD your God delivers them before you and you defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them.

- > The Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, according to the Pharisees, were to be hated!
- > The Pharisees considered all Gentiles enemies of the Jew.
- > They taught the people to love their fellow countrymen (**Lev. 19:18**) but to hate, despise, and abhor the Gentiles.

Deuteronomy 30:7

“The LORD your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you.

In reference to Israel’s enemies, specifically the Ammonites and the Moabites, **Deuteronomy 23:6** states,

“**You shall never seek their peace or their prosperity all your days**”

- > The one who doesn’t seek peace hates the one who has wronged him.
- > Pharisaical teaching was to hate and abhor your enemies [*Gentiles*].



Matthew 5:43

6th Subject: Kingdom standard regarding Love

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate** [**μισέω – MISEO** – “to detest”] **your enemy.**’

- > What did the Pharisees teach?
- > What did our Savior do?

44 “**But I say to you, love your enemies** [*Gentiles*] **and pray for those who persecute you,**

This is an unprecedented teaching in the Word of God at that time in History!

- **ἀγαπάω – AGAPAO** – “keep on loving your enemies”
⇒ **ἐχθρός** - “enemy” - an individual who hates you
- **προσεύχομαι** – “keep on praying on behalf of the ones who are persecuting or pursuing you.”

The command is for you to intercede on behalf of those who persecute you.

45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. . .

If you don’t do these things you are not a son – but you cannot do these things to become a son either!

- **ὅπως + γίνομαι** - indicates that the one who loves his enemies and prays for those who persecute him are sons of God because they are reflecting the character of God who is their Father.

⇒ Did Jesus Christ fulfill these commands as the Son of God? See **Luke 23:33-43**

⇒ The kingdom subject is commanded to love his enemies because that is what His heavenly Father does.

. . . for [**ὅτι – HOTI** - “because”] . . . **because** He causes His sun to rise on *the evil and the good*, and sends rain on *the righteous and the unrighteous*.

- That’s a demonstration of God’s love - not only for the righteous but for His enemies.
- Remember **Matthew 5:48** “**Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**”

46 “For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors [*revenue officers*] do the same?

47 “If you greet only your brothers [*your countrymen – your fellow Jews*], what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

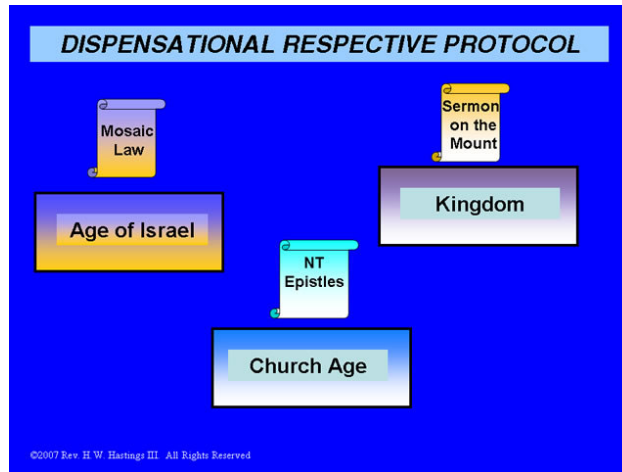
What's the application for us?

In light of the New Testament Epistles, we are commanded to love one another -

- ⇒ To love fellow believers (**1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:11,23; 4:7,12**)
- ⇒ To love your enemies - -
 - To pray for their souls (intercede on their behalf). . .
 - To function as salty lights. . .

48 “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- Everyone falls short of God's perfect standards -
- Everyone, therefore, must trust in Him as their Messiah -
- When the kingdom is established there will be a baptism of fire [*judgment*] for the unbeliever and a baptism of the Spirit for the kingdom subject.
- The Kingdom subjects will enter the kingdom with the Spirit of God and be able to meet the righteous standards of the Sermon.



All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.