



Lemoore church of Christ

Oct. 18, 2020

Fighting Fire with Fire

Brett Petrillo

Abigail Van Buren, best known for her famous "Dear Abby" column, was once the queen of witty advice. On one particular occasion, she said something especially thought-provoking: "People who fight fire with fire usually end up with ashes."

While it is true firefighters have often used fire to help limit the damage of a forest fire, the end result is always the same -- more ashes. Outside the forest, our culture has become a place blazing with some of the hottest and ugliest "fires." Politics. Racism. Religion. Our world has become an extremely heated and angry place.

To make matters worse, too many in our world are choosing to fight these fiery situations with more fire. In other words, they respond to hotheaded people and heated situations by doing the exact same thing. People are slandering, insulting, yelling, rioting, looting, hurting, and seeking revenge on others. It's fighting fire with fire. And the end result has simply produced more and more ashes.

It's no surprise that God has the solution, "To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing" ([1 Peter 3:8-9](#)). A nice cold bucket of love, forgiveness, and kindness would do wonders for hot situations like these.

Returning evil for evil will always add to the overall damage. Using God's problem-solving techniques will always be better than our own. Let's put out the fires and commit to being a part of the solution in the way God has instructed.

Five Minutes with God: This week:

Sunday	Day 292	John 15:9-17
Monday	Day 293	John 15:18-25
Tuesday	Day 294	John 15:25 - 16:4
Wednesday	Day 295	John 16:5-15
Thursday	Day 296	John 16:16-24
Friday	Day 297	John 16:25-33
Saturday	Day 298	John 17:1-5

Prayer List:

Cleta Sisk, Eula Rhoads' sister spine injury and testing for other medical issues

Eula Rhoades is not feeling well and needs prayers.

Betty Standridge - soft tissue injury in her foot

Kerri Hodgson's brother Don suffering from hypothermia following a kayak accident.

Megan, Garth's Brother-in-law's niece cancer

Michael Davis, from Springville congregation (son Aaron and family have visited here) is very ill.

Kathy Shough, relative of Lynda Sander, - cancer

Kim Cargill, Stephanie Tischmacher's stepmom

Doug Standridge

Red and Marjory Cooper

Richard Hunsberger, Stephanie Tischmacher's step-dad,

Meryl Wamhoff, friend of Lisa Butts, has months of chemo ahead. Still needs prayers

Gary Radcliff, Garth's father, started chemo

Linda Frye, Cancer

Bill Fox, co-worker of Frank Baldwin, clots in his legs

Angie and Tito Cano- Tito on maintenance meds

Bart Massey, friend of Dixie Blair, stomach cancer

Casey Case Jr ongoing oncology treatment

Our Mission Work:

- First Responders
- Preachers in Nicaragua
- Agape Village
- Crossover Ministry
- City of Children
- Manuelito's Children's Home
- Church of Christ Disaster relief Fund
- World Christian Broadcasting