

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
IS IT REALLY REVENGE?
You forgot one
important motivation!



By Stephen L. Bakke  December 29, 2014

Here's what provoked me:

There was an editorial that used the Christmas season to deliver a very secular message - and that's fine. But I thought some could apply this too broadly and use the sage advice to justify foolish actions, or inactions, by our country.

Here's my response:

Is it Really Just Revenge? You forgot one important motivation!

Your editorial of 12-24, "Let go of revenge and feel the glow," was an interesting delivery of a legitimate secular "Christmas" message I guess. I took it as pertaining mostly to international issues, although it could also apply to the unrest within our country or between neighbors. Its message was mostly a psychological analysis of human reactions to unfavorable situations, and makes these points regarding revenge:

- It's lack of humility (or arrogance I guess) that leads one to seek revenge.
- Forgiveness isn't in the mix when dealing with thoughts of revenge.
- Anticipating a revengeful action can be intoxicating.
- One's feelings following a revengeful action can be delicious.
- These intoxicating and delicious feelings are very fleeting and ultimately disappointing.
- Revenge begets revenge.
- Summary: "We love revenge, and it's killing us."

I noticed generally favorable reactions in subsequent letters to the editor.

I will challenge your wholesome message just a bit. The editorial seems to leave no room for justifiable forceful reactions to a dangerous situation. **Let us not get lost in the "glow" of kind intentions so that we aren't wise in the face of real danger.** There's a common motivation that removes certain actions from the revenge category. I'm specifically thinking of many endeavors we as a country have taken on with the goal of self preservation. **Sometimes these distasteful actions are just plain old SELF DEFENSE! You must leave room for that!**



Is it

or simply

