

**Discussion Questions**  
**Seven Wounds & One Blessing**  
**Revelation 16**

(What motivates you towards love? Who or what has taught you most about love?)

In his sermon, Peter said most people in our society see Revelation 16 as a threat:

“You better love, like God loves, or God will pour out His bowls of wrath on you.”

And they see Revelation 20 as the ultimate threat:

“You better love, like God loves, or He’ll endlessly torment you in the lake of Fire.”

- Do you agree that this is how most people in your society interpret these verses?
- Do you think these types of beliefs and threats lead to love of God & others? Explain.

Commonsense would tell us that the crucifixion of Christ is the result of our choices, but the vision in Revelation 16 seems to reveal that both our good & bad choices are somehow the result of the crucifixion... Our bad choices cause His wounds in time, but His wounds are eternal and cause our wounds in time... It’s not like God is saying, “*Get your act together or I’ll afflict you with wounds...*” but rather, “*I will afflict you with wounds, that you might love . . . as I love.*” Rev. 15:1 “*With these seven wounds the wrath of God is finished—teleo.*”

- Can you think of a time or times when you felt God inflicted you with a wound/wounds?
- In your experience, do you think the wounds and pains you’ve experience in this world have helped you grow in your ability to love?
- Do the plagues [literally “wounds”] mentioned in Revelation 16 remind you of your wounds in any way? If so, how?

“In circumcision, flesh is cut away for the sake of an intimate communion producing life. Likewise in baptism, you remember that your sins have been washed away, your old self was crucified, you’re *psyche* was destroyed . . . all for the sake of intimate communion with God and your neighbor.”—P.H.

- What do you sense God currently cutting away in your life in order that you might produce more of His life, in order that you might have intimate communion with Him and with others?

In Revelation 16:6, God seems to think that those who have shed the blood of saints and prophets deserve to drink His blood. They deserve communion.

God repays our evil with Good. (Romans 12:21) We took His life and discovered that He has always given His life from the foundation of the world... It is His Judgment. And any time you choose to love, which is choosing to bleed for your neighbor, it is because the Judgment of God has taken His place on the throne in the sanctuary of your soul.—P.H.

It appears we “deserve” blood not because any of us have “earned” it but because God freely gave it to all. This seems to be God’s idea of justice.

- How do you feel about that?
- Do you feel/think it is just?
- Does the revelation of God’s idea of justice in anyway change your understanding of what the justice of God is all about?
- What implications might it have about the way you treat others...and yourself?

Read Isaiah 53:4-5 then take a moment to thank God for His wounds at work for you, in you, and through you.

*\*These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen*