

Love Your Enemies

Matthew 5:43–48

- **Matthew 5:43** “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’
- **Leviticus 19:18** “ ‘Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.
- **Exodus 23:4–5** “If you come across your enemy’s ox or donkey wandering off, be sure to return it. 5 If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; be sure you help them with it.

1. The _____ Command

Matthew 5:44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

2. Conduits of the Father’s _____

Matthew 5:44-45 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Application:

- **We must become _____ of the grace that we have received.**

Matthew 5:46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? **47** And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

Useful Question: What are some practical ways that I can show the love of God to those who treat me like an enemy?

- **We must remember that Christ died for _____, not just our sin.**
- **John 2:2** He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

3. The _____ Command

Matthew 5:48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- **Leviticus 19:2** “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.
- **Deuteronomy 18:13** You must be blameless before the LORD your God.
- **Hebrews 10:14** For by a single offering (Jesus’ death) he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Useful Questions:

- How does the knowledge that Christ has made you perfect before God affect the way that you interact with God?
- How have you seen the Holy Spirit bring about obedience to Christ’s commands in your life?

Next Steps for Growth:

I want to begin to follow Jesus today.

I want to be contacted by a pastor.

I want to be baptized.

I want to become a member.

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Change my contact info

Mailing Address: _____

I am a: 1st time guest 2nd time guest Regular Attendee Member (taken membership class & committed to membership covenant)

Prayer Requests/Praise Items: _ Put this on the prayer chain.