

# redletter

**Red Letter – Part 3 – Love Your Enemies**  
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**38** “You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’”

Anyone who injures another person must be dealt with according to the injury inflicted— **20** a fracture for a fracture, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Whatever anyone does to injure another person must be paid back in kind. - Leviticus 24:19-20

**39** But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. **40** If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. **41** If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles. **42** Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow.” - Matthew 5:38-42

## WHO COULD BE MY ENEMY?

- Those who have HURT me.
- Those who have been UNFAIR to me.
- Those who are HOSTILE toward me.
- Those with different BELIEFS than me.

## HOW TO LOVE MY ENEMY

**43** “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. **44** But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! **45** In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. **46** If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. **47** If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. **48** But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.” - Matthew 5:43-48

- 1) Remember whom you BELONG to. (v. 45)
- 2) Decide not to keep SCORE. (v. 46-47)
- 3) PRAY for them – seriously ☺ (v. 44)
- 4) Pursue PERFECTION. (v. 48)

## WHY LOVE MY ENEMY?

- ✓ I can't move toward GOD'S BEST with a root of bitterness holding me back.

Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many. – Hebrews 12:15

- ✓ I will never have to FORGIVE someone more than God has forgiven me.

**8** But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. **10** For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.

- Romans 5:8,10