

SUMMER OF LOVE

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

JUNE 12TH, 2022 | GLEN BARNES

First

“ You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ 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. 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? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

~ MATTHEW 5:43-48 (NIV)

1. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE MY ENEMIES?

More than just being a Christian _____, and beyond simple _____

“ You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ ³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”

~ MATTHEW 5:38-42 (NIV)

“ I have decided to stick with love, because hate is too great of a burden to bear.

- DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

“ Always remember, others may hate you, but those who hate you don't win unless you hate them back, and then you destroy yourself.

- RICHARD NIXON

- Love for our enemy demonstrates an ultimate expression of Kingdom Ethics by _____ returning _____ with _____

2. HOW DO I ACTUALLY LOVE MY ENEMIES?

Learn from the _____

“ He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

~ MATTHEW 5:45 (NIV)

Definition COMMON GRACE: /kämən grās/

Describes God's indiscriminate kindness to all humankind, believers and unbelievers, through the abundant and daily blessings of earthly life.

“ ...while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son,”

~ ROMANS 5:10 (NIV)

- Consider The Way God Loves You

- Practical Ways to Really Love My Enemies

*Agape is a choice
not a feeling.*

“ But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

~ LUKE 6:27-28 (NIV)

3. WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO LOVE MY ENEMIES?

- It is this Christlike Love that _____

“ 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?”

~ MATTHEW 5:46-47 (NIV)

- I Need Jesus to _____ Jesus

“ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

~ MATTHEW 5:48 (NIV)

COMMUNITY GROUP Questions:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS available on the APP |    

- 1- Who would you rate as the all time greatest movie villain?
- 2- Why do you think that in Jesus' day it was common to say "love your neighbor and hate your enemy" when in fact that is not what the Scripture says? (Check out Leviticus 19:17-18).
- 3- Read Matthew 5:38-42. What do you think it means that loving your neighbor is more than just being a Christian victim, and beyond simple non-retaliation?
- 4- Read Matthew 5:45. How is what Jesus says about the weather relevant to how we are supposed to love our neighbor? What does the doctrine of "Common Grace" teach us about the character of God?
- 5- How do you show love to someone even when you don't feel like it? How does Jesus say we can practically do that? (Hint: read Matthew 5:44 and Luke 6:27-28)
- 6- Is there someone for you that is hard to love these days? Share that with your group. What is something you can do to put Jesus' words about loving our enemies into practice this week?

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