

Love in Chaos

Love Your Enemy

www.kokomofirstcongo.org

Pastor Hayden Bewley

November 5th, 2023



Matthew 5:43-48 NIV

“You have heard that it was said,
‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’
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.



Matthew 5:43-48 NIV

If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.





**LOVE your enemy;
PRAY for your enemy**

1 Peter 3:10-12

For, “Whoever would love life
and see good days
must keep their tongue from evil
and their lips from deceitful speech.
They must turn from evil and do good;
they must seek peace and pursue it.
For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous
and his ears are attentive to their prayer,
but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”





**God hears our prayers;
Make them count!**



**You're not ready to love your enemy in chaos
Until you're willing to pray for them in peace**



Isaiah 64:6 NIV

All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.



**We come nowhere near
God's Goodness**



Romans 5:10 NIV

For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!



**God loved first.
So we need to love first.**



John 13:34-35 NIV

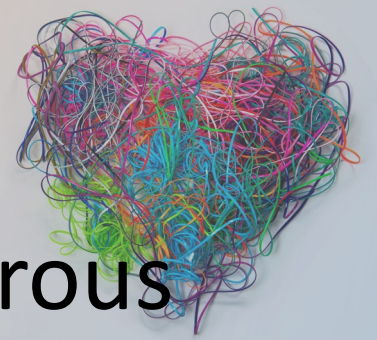
“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”



**Jesus practiced what
He preached**

Acts 9 NIV

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"



Acts 9 NIV

“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.





**Jesus practiced what
He preached**



**God can use your enemy
For His Kingdom**

1 Timothy 2:1-6 NIV



I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.

Application:



1. Praying for your enemies, leads to loving your enemies.
2. Your prayers are powerful, treat prayer as the important, life changing practice that it is
3. We are nowhere near God's Goodness.
4. God loved first, in spite of our imperfection and our "enemy status". We must also love first!
5. God can turn an enemy into an ally.

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