

Am I better than Average?

Matt. 5: 43-48 - How do I treat my enemies?

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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.

Matt. 5: 43-48 - How do I treat my enemies?

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.

A Blatant Misuse of Scripture

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“Love Your Neighbor” is from Lev. 19:18

“Hate Your Enemy” is not in the Torah

Jesus says “Agape” your enemies.

Agape: The highest kind of love. Denotes a desire for others well being. Wishing them the best. *Doing* something to help improve someone's life because you want the best for them, expecting nothing in return. It's more than a feeling. It's an Action

Comparison - How does God treat people?

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We are most like God when we are loving
our enemy.

The “Impossible Statement”

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The spirit of Revenge and Racism is very much alive today. It should not be found in followers of Jesus.

Teleios: Perfect; complete; not lacking anything; wholeness; becoming everything you are created to be.

“Be complete, just like your Heavenly Father in the way you love others.” “Do not let your love for God and for others be lacking in any way, but be like your Father.”

“Greater Righteousness” is “More than Average”

What more are you doing than others?

Murder and Anger

Handling Conflict:

- 1) You make things right.
- 2) The conversation is with the person involved.
- 3) Do it immediately.

Adultery and Lust

Stop making excuses and honor
God and people with your body,
heart, and mind.

Divorce

Don't break covenant
faithfulness. Fight for your
marriage.

Swearing Oaths

Be honest and don't use God to manipulate others.

Eye for Eye (Retaliation and Revenge)

If you are wronged, do not respond in the same manner, but choose peaceful resistance.

Love for Enemies

Don't be like everybody else; Be like God. Agape your enemies.

What more are you doing
than others?