

Love Your Enemies

Matthew 5:43-48

Big Idea: Kingdom citizens live differently; so, love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you.

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Mat 5:43-48 ESV)

Big Idea: Kingdom citizens live differently; so, love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you.

Love your enemies!

1. God loves all people (v. 43).
2. We love because we're children of God (vv. 44-45).
3. Love people you don't like (vv. 46-47).
4. Be ye perfect (v. 48).

1. God loves all people (v. 43).

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'" (v. 43; cf. Lev 19:8-19).

God invites all people to salvation.

- i. Abraham was to be a father of nations (Gen 17:5).
- ii. The temple was so that the people of the world would know God (1Kngs 8:60).
- iii. A house of prayer for all people (Isaiah 56:7).
- iv. Believers are missionaries to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).
- v. Every Nation, tribe and tongue will be in Heaven (Rev 7:9-10)

2. We love because we're children of God (vv. 44-45).

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“Love in our lives is the evidence that the Spirit of God has brought us from death to life.”

-- John Piper

Love is a defining attribute of Christians.

- i. My actions reflect my relationship with God (v. 44).
- ii. My love for others is rooted in the Cross (1Jn 4:19).
- iii. Without love nothing matters (1Co 13).

Love in action:

- i. Respond with kind words instead of bitter words.
- ii. Do good to them that hate you.
- iii. Pray for them which use you and persecute you.

3. Love people you don't like (vv. 46-47).

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Love people, even when you don't *like* them.

- i. Love is a choice, not an emotion.
- ii. Love those who don't love back (v. 46)
- iii. Greet the different people (v. 47)

4. Be ye perfect (vv. 20; 48).

“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven ... Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”

God's righteousness is better.

- i. True righteousness comes from God (Mt 23:27).
- ii. God's righteousness brings salvation (Rom 3:20-22).
- iii. God offers his righteousness to us (2Co 5:21).

Jesus was perfect for us. Trust Jesus to be perfect on your behalf.