

LOVING YOUR ENEMIES

Matthew 5:43-48

INTRODUCTION:

Based on our text, we will examine four elements to Loving Your Enemies. We should demonstrate love to our enemies through deliberate acts of compassion.

- **“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Matt 5:44).**

I. THE REMINDER (v. 43)

- A. The Old Testament Law (Lev 19:18; Matt 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27; Rom 13:9)**
- B. The Perversion of the Law by the Scribes and the Pharisees (Exod 23:4-5; Prov 24:17, 25:21; 1 John 4:7-8, 19-21).**

II. THE REQUIREMENT (v. 44a)

- A. Agape Love**
- B. George Washington Carver**

III. THE RESPONSIBILITY (v. 44b)

- A. “Bless Them That Curse You” (Rom 5:10; Prov 15:1; 1 Pet 3:9)**
- B. “Do Good to Them That Hate You” (1 John 3:18)**
- C. “Pray For Them Which Despitefully Use You, Persecute You” (Acts 7:59-60; Luke 23:34)**

IV. THE REASON (v. 45-48)

- A. Love Makes A Person Like God (v. 45)**
- B. Exceed Your Fellow Man (vv. 46-47)**
- C. Be Like Your Heavenly Father (v. 48)**

CONCLUSION:

A. Is there a person in your life, a difficult person, who God wants you to love?

B. Ponder these thoughts! The True Christian:

- **Has his enemies, yet he is to love them**
- **Has his cursers, yet he is to bless them**
- **Has his haters, yet he is to do good to them**
- **Has his persecutors, yet he is to pray for them**

C. CHALLENGE – Do something nice this week for your enemy.

- **Someone you are on non-speaking terms with because of a prior incident**
- **Your difficult boss, or someone you witnessed to who opposed Christ.**
- **LOVE YOUR ENEMIES – NO EXCEPTIONS**

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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).