

Love Your Enemy (Pt. 1)

Matthew 5:43-48

- I. The Pharisees' Distortion of the Law of Love (43)
 - A. Based on the Immediate Context of Lev. 19:8 (13, 15-16, 18)
 - B. Based on the Commands about the Canaanites (Dt. 7:2; 23:6)
 - C. Based on the Imprecatory Psalms (e.g., Ps. 139:21-22)
- II. Jesus' Exposition of the Law of Love (44-47)

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II. Jesus' Exposition of the Law of Love (44-47)

A. The Mandate of our Love (44a)—*"love"*

B. The Magnitude of our Love (44b)—*"your enemies"*

1. Enemies in the biblical sense

2. Enemies in a cultural sense

3. Enemies in a personal sense

C. The Manifestations of our Love

1. Pray for them (44b; cf. Ps. 35:11-14).

2. Bless them (Lk. 6:28).

3. Do good to them (Mt. 5:45; Lk. 6:27; Rom. 12:14, 20).

What helps us love our enemies?

1. Remember people are not the real enemy (Eph. 6:12).
2. Remember unbelievers are slaves to Satan and their sin (Eph. 2:1-3; Tit. 3:2-3).
3. Remember our own sin struggles and we'll be more gracious to others (Heb. 5:2).
4. Remember God loved us when we were His enemies (Rom. 5:8).