

October 13, 2019
Matthew 5:43-48

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

I. Introduction:

II. Unpacking The Passage

A. The Pharisees Taught “Hate Your Enemies”

1. A Terrible Misreading Of Scripture:
 - a.) Limited Term “Neighbor” To Their Fellow Israelites
 - b.) Used God’s Hatred Of Evil For Personal Animosity

B. The Old Testament Actually Taught:

1. Love Your Neighbor As Yourself :

“Do not hate your brother in your heart ... Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, **but love your neighbor as yourself.**”
Leviticus 19:17-18
2. Do Good To Your Enemy:

“If you come across your enemy’s ox or donkey wandering off, be sure to take it back to him. If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; **be sure you help him with it.**” Exodus 23:4-5

“If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.” Proverbs 25:21

C. Jesus Taught: Love Your Enemies

“But I tell you: **Love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you.” Matthew 5:44

1. How Are We To Love Our Enemies?

a.) Pray For Those Who Persecute You:

“But I tell you: Love your enemies and **pray for those who persecute you.**” Matthew 5:44

b.) Live As Children Of Your Heavenly Father:

“... that you may be sons 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 5:45

c.) As Christians We Should Do More Than Others

“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 brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Matthew 5:46-47

d.) Be Perfect As Your Heavenly Father Is Perfect

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Matthew 5:48

III. Conclusion And Application: