

## Love Your Enemies

### Matthew 5:43-48

In loving our enemies...

#### 1. we endeavor to show that we belong to God.

##### A. A deceptive precept.

**Matthew 5:43** | <sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

##### B. A divine prescription.

**Matthew 5:44** | <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

##### C. A distinct purpose.

**Matthew 5:45a** | <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

#### 2. we exemplify God’s love for all people.

**Matthew 5:45b** | <sup>45b</sup> For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.

#### 3. we exhibit separation from the lost world.

##### A. We must be different from the most despised among us.

**Matthew 5:46** | <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

**We must be different from the most depraved among us.**

B. **Matthew 5:47** | <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

**4. we engage in the process of sanctification.**

**A. The priority: our personal sanctification.**

**Matthew 5:48a** | <sup>48a</sup> You therefore must be perfect,

**B. The pattern: our heavenly Father.**

**Matthew 5:48b** | <sup>48b</sup> as your heavenly Father is perfect.