

Love Your Enemies

Matthew 5:38-48

Main Point:

When you were His enemy, Jesus loved you; therefore, instead of retaliating, love your enemies.

1. You are not to retaliate when wronged by others.
2. Jesus wants you to love your enemies.
3. Loving your enemies is a defining characteristic of a child of God.
4. When you were His enemy, Jesus loved you.
5. Instead of retaliating, love your enemies.

Quotations and Cross-References

Mark Ross “In their [scribes’ and Pharisees’] view, it permitted retaliation in kind whenever one suffered a wrong – paying back the offender with everything he deserved (and perhaps more).”

Romans 12:17-21 ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance *is* Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (NKJV)

John Murray “[Common grace is] every favor of whatsoever kind and degree, falling short of salvation, which this undeserving and sin-cursed world enjoys at the hand of God.”

Alfred Plummer “To return evil for good is devilish; to return good for good is human; to return good for evil is divine.”

Sinclair Ferguson “God’s people should be different. It should be obvious that we are extra-ordinary, for our Father is extra-ordinary. This is what Jesus means when he tells us to be ‘perfect’ like the Father. He’s not assuming we can reach moral perfection in this life. Rather, he is reflecting on the way in which the love of the Father is demonstrated in its perfection in the way he loves his enemies.”

J.C. Ryle “A child should be like his father: but where is our likeness to our Father in heaven if we cannot show mercy and kindness to everybody? Where is the evidence that we are new creatures, if we lack charity?”

Mark Ross “Loving only those who love us requires nothing special of us. But loving those who persecute us, oppose us, slander us, and utter all manner of evil against us falsely, requires supernatural grace. [And yet] such grace is given to those who are the sons of God.”

Colossians 1:21 ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled (NKJV)

Isaiah 50:6 ⁶ I gave My back to those who struck *Me*, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. (NKJV)

1 Peter 2:22-23 ²² "[Jesus] committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; ²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously. (NKJV)

Romans 5:6-8, 10 ⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us ... ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (NKJV)