

- I. Their teaching: *_Love_ your _neighbor_ and _hate_ your _enemy_* Gen 18:16-33
- A. These teachers believed that *_enemy_- _hating_ was _God's_ way.* Acts 26:4-5, 9-11;
Ex 23:23-26;
Deut 9:4-5; 20:16-18;
Ps 139:21-22; 69:22-28;
Ps 137:8-9; Lev 18:21-28
- B. Their “*_love_*” was only *_natural_* Luke 10:25-29
- II. His truth: *_Love_ your _enemies_ (_too_)*
- A. *_That's_ the Father's _way_* Ps 104:13-15, 27-28;
Acts 14:17; James 1:17;
Gen 15:16; Amos 4:6-9;
John 3:16; Rom 5:8-10
- B. That's the *_supernatural_ way to _love_* Lev 19:16-18;
Matt 5:3-9;
John 7:37-38
- III. Our takeaway: *_Sons_ of the heavenly Father _love_ like He does*
- A. They *_love_ all people* John 1:12; Matt 5:9;
I Pet 2:2; I John 2:12-24;
Heb 5:14; I Cor: 13:11;
Col 1:27-28; Lam 3:27
Luke 6:27-28
- B. They *_pray_ (_intercede_)* for all Luke 23:34;
Acts 7:60

Care Group Questions

“But I Tell You #6”
Text: Matthew 5:43-48

Dave Bechtel

January 13, 2008

1. Are you, personally, in some kind of regular Bible reading program? If so, what is it? If not, how come?
2. How could these teachers to whom Jesus is referring believe that they should hate their enemies? Where would they have gotten that idea from? What was their misunderstanding?
3. In these verses, Jesus alludes to the “normal” way that people love others in this fallen world. What is that way? Who would that kind of loving include in your life?
4. King Jesus says that His Father’s way is to love even His enemies. How does He show that (as Jesus illustrates)? How else has the Father shown His love even for His enemies?
5. Loving even our enemies is not natural but supernatural. How could a person have the power to do that? (How do the beatitudes figure into this supernatural power?)
6. Agree/Disagree: “If we don’t love our enemies, like our Heavenly Father does, then we are not His sons (daughters).” (Hint, what is the meaning of “sons” as Jesus is using the term?)
7. What are the marks of “sons” that Jesus gives in this passage? What might that look like? (give a practical example or two)
8. In the context, why would we intercede for our enemies (and what does “intercede” mean)? What might that look like (give examples)?
9. Are you a part of the 40 days of fasting and prayer? If so, how is it going for you?
10. Bonus question: the following verses contain the word translated “perfect” in Matthew 5:48, though it is translated differently in some cases. Develop what the meaning of the word is and how it is God’s goal for His children. (see I Cor. 13:10-11, 14:20; Eph. 4:13; Phil. 3:15; Col. 1:28; Heb. 5:14; James 1:4)

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