

The Sermon On The Mount • Matthew 5:43-48
Love Your Enemies

Love, touchy subject and a tricky subject. We all desperately want to be loved. (**agapao**: to love, value, esteem, feel or manifest generous concern for, be faithful towards; to delight in) We want to love others but it is so difficult to be consistent. We have enemies, we have friends who become enemies and even those we love are not immune to at least at times becoming our enemy. The news this morning is good and simple to grasp but seemingly a lifetime to master.

What not to do, What we are to do, Why we are to do it, How not to do it and How to do it.

“We ask, “Who is not worthy of our love?” God asks, “Who do you love who’s not worthy?”

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

“If a Jew sees that a Gentile has fallen into the sea, let him by no means lift him out. Of course it is written, ‘Do not rise up against your neighbor’s life.’, but this man is not your neighbor.”

Leviticus 19:18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the LORD.

Exodus 23:4 “If you meet **your enemy’s** ox or his donkey going astray, **you shall bring it back to him.**

Exodus 23:5 If you see the donkey of **one who hates you** lying down under its burden, **you shall refrain from leaving him with it; you shall rescue it with him.**

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

2Timothy 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus **will be persecuted...**

Matthew 5:45 **so that** you may be **sons of your Father who is in heaven**. For he makes **his sun rise** on the evil and on the good, and **sends rain** on the just and on the unjust.

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

Matthew 5:47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the **Gentiles do the same?**

Matthew 5:48 You therefore **must be perfect**, as **your heavenly Father is perfect**.

Luke 6:35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, **expecting nothing in return**, and your reward will be great, and **you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil**.

Luke 6:36 Be **merciful**, even as **your Father is merciful**.

Matthew 18:33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, **as I had mercy on you?**

1John 3:6 **No one who abides in him keeps on sinning**; no one who keeps on sinning has **either seen him or known him**.

1John 1:10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you **so that you may not sin**. **But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous**.

1John 3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

1John 3:8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. **The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil**.

1John 3:9 **No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him**, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.

1John 3:10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, **nor is the one who does not love his brother.**

1John 3:11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that **we should love one another.**

1John 3:12 **We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one** and murdered his brother. And **why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.**

Genesis 4:3 In the course of time **Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground,**

Genesis 3:19 **By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread,** till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Genesis 4:4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. **And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,**

Hebrews 9:22b and without the **shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.**

Genesis 4:5 but **for Cain and his offering he had no regard.** So Cain was very **angry,** and his face fell.

Hebrews 11:4 **By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous,** God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

1John 3:23 And this is his commandment, that **we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ** and **love one another,** just as he has commanded us.

1John 3:24 Whoever keeps his commandments **abides in God,** and **God in him.** And by this we know that he abides in us, **by the Spirit whom he has given us.**

1John 4:7 Beloved, **let us love one another, for love is from God,** and **whoever loves has been born of God** and **knows God.**

1John 4:8 **Anyone who does not love does not know God,** because God is love.

1John 4:9 In this the love of God was **made manifest among us**, that God sent his only Son into the world, **so that we might live through him**.

1John 4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God **but that he loved us** and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1John 4:11 Beloved, **if God so loved us**, we also ought to love one another.

John 15:9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

1John 4:16 *So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.* **God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

1John 4:17 By this is **love perfected with us**, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

1John 4:18 There is **no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear**. For fear has to do with punishment, and **whoever fears has not been perfected in love**.

1John 4:19 **We love because he first loved us**.

1John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, **for apart from me you can do nothing**.

John 5:19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of his own accord**, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

John 5:30 **"I can do nothing on my own**. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

John 14:10 Do you not believe that **I am in the Father and the Father is in me?** The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

John 15:9 **As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.** Abide in my love.