**Research on: Love your enemies**

Matt 5:44, 45

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

“The word for love is carefully chosen. It is not demanded that we should love our enemies with a natural and spontaneous affection (phileo), but with the supernatural Christian love that comes by grace (agape)” (Dummalow, 644).

“One manifestation love for enemies will be in prayer; praying for an enemy and loving him will prove mutually reinforcing. The more love, the more prayer; the more prayer, the more love” (Expositor’s Commentary, Matthew, 158).

“**Enemies** is *echthros* in Greek which means hated, odious, opposing another, a man that is hostile, the devil” (www.blueletterbible.org).

“**Bless** is *eulogeo* in Greek which means to praise, invoke blessings, to ask God’s blessing on a thing, pronounce a consecratory blessing on; to cause to prosper, to make happy” ([www.blueletterbible.org)](http://www.blueletterbible.org)).

“**Do good** is *kalos* in Greek which means excellently, to speak well of one, to do good, rightly so that there shall be no room for blame, nobly, commendable” (blueletterbible.org).

“**Pray** is *proseuchomai* in Greek which means to offer prayers, to make a prayer for, to pray to God” (blueletterbible.org).

“**Despitefully** is *epereazo* in Greek which means to insult, to treat abusively, to revile, to accuse falsely, to threaten” (blueletterbible.org).

“**Persecute** is *dioko* in Greek which means to put to flight, drive away, to be mistreated, suffer persecution on account of something, to seek after eagerly, to pursue in a hostile manner” (blueletterbible.org).

“. . .  this is a special law of Christianity, and the highest possible test of piety, and probably the most difficult of all duties to be performed. . . ”

“***Bless them that curse you*** - The word "bless" here means to "speak well of" or "speak well to:" - not to curse again or to slander, but to speak of those things which we can commend in an enemy; or, if there is nothing that we can commend, to say nothing about him. The word "bless," spoken of God, means to regard with favor or to confer benefits, as when God is said to bless his people. When we speak of our "blessing God," it means to praise Him or give thanks to Him. When we speak of blessing people, it "unites" the two meanings, and signifies to confer favor, to thank, or to speak well of’ (Barnes, [www.biblehub.com)](http://www.biblehub.com)).

Mis. 210:32

Love your enemies, or you will not lose them; and if you love them, you will help to reform

them.

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

“Christians are called the "sons" or "children" of God in several of these senses: as his offspring; as adopted; as his disciples; as imitators of Him. In this passage the word is applied to them because, in doing good to enemies, they resemble God. He makes His sun to rise upon the evil and good, and sends rain, without distinction, on the just and unjust. So His people should show that they imitate or resemble Him, or that they possess His spirit, by doing good in a similar way” (Barnes, [www.biblehub.com)](http://www.biblehub.com)).

No. 7:10

    Sooner or later the eyes of sinful mortals must be opened

to see every error they possess, and the way out of it; and

they will “flee as a bird to your mountain,” away from

the enemy of sinning sense, stubborn will, and every im-

perfection in the land of Sodom, and find rescue and refuge

in Truth and Love.

My. 213:15-22

    Unless one’s eyes are opened to the modes of mental

malpractice, working so subtly that we mistake its sug-

gestions for the impulses of our own thought, the victim

will allow himself to drift in the wrong direction with-

out knowing it. Be ever on guard against this enemy.

Watch your thoughts, and see whether they lead you

to God and into harmony with His true followers.

Guard and strengthen your own citadel more strongly.

**Mis. 8:8-13:12**

**Love Your Enemies**