

Are You a Disciple?

Loving the Hard to Love

Matthew 5:43-48

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Introduction:

- Loving someone is simply caring for the welfare of that person ... WHY? ... Because they were created in the Image of God.
 - **Matthew 5:43-48**
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1. What They Thought:

- a. **Matthew 5:43**
- b. **Leviticus 19:18**
- c. The Lord never told Israel to hate their enemies:
 - i. **Exodus 22:21**
 - ii. **Exodus 23:19**
 - iii. **Leviticus 18:26**
 - iv. **Leviticus 19:34**
- d. Today, there are still hateful things that people are taught:
 - i. Hatred of different people groups:
 - ii. Misandry:
 - iii. Misogyny:
 - iv. Anti-Semitism:
 - v. Abortion:
 - vi. If you hurt me, I can hate you:
- e. **Matthew 5:43**

2. What Was Said:

- a. **Matthew 5:4-47**
- b. Four Greek words for love:
 - i. Storge:
 - ii. Philia:
 - iii. Eros:
 - iv. Agape:

- c. So, what was said in **verses 44-47**?
 - i. Love your enemies: **1st Peter 3:8 ... John 13:35 ... 1st Peter 4:8**
 - ii. Pray for those who persecute you: **Luke 23:34 ... Acts 7:59-60 ... John 14:15**
 - iii. Do good to those who are against you: **Matthew 5:45**
- d. Why do people persecute and harass others?
 - i. No relationship with God
 - ii. Low self-esteem and no confidence

3. Why Should We?

- a. **Matthew 5:48**
- b. Greek – **Teleios** ... English – **Perfect** ... *“Perfection in the sense of not lacking moral quality ... Maturing in moral qualities.”*