

PRAYING FOR OUR ENEMIES, PART 1  
(Matthew 5:43-48)

- I. Popular ASSUMPTION (Matthew 5:43)
  - A. LOVE your neighbor (cf. Lev. 19:18, 33-34)
    - a. Omits the qualifier “as YOURSELF”
    - b. Omits the expansion to the “STRANGER”
  - B. HATE your enemy
  
- II. Jesus’ INSTRUCTION (Matthew 5:44-48)
  - A. Love your ENEMIES
  - B. Pray for your PERSECUTORS
  - C. Emulate your HEAVENLY FATHER
    - 1. If you LOVE only those who LOVE YOU, you’re no better than “tax collectors”
    - 2. If you GREET only your BROTHERS, you’re no better than Gentiles
  
- III. Vital QUESTIONS
  - A. Who are our ENEMIES?
    - 1. Not those who DISAGREE with us on non-cardinal DOCTRINES

2. Not those who DIFFER with us on QUESTIONABLE matters of lifestyle
3. But those who actively OPPOSE us and try to HARM us

B. How are we to TREAT our enemies?

1. With FORBEARANCE (Rom. 12:17)
2. With PEACEABLENESS (Rom. 12:18)
3. Without seeking personal REVENGE (Rom. 12:19)
4. With KINDNESS (Rom. 12:20)