

The Way of the Cross: Enemy Love

April 13, 2025

Text: Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-36; 23:33-34; Romans 12:14-21

One of the Most Repeated and Most Ignored Commands

- _____ for enemy love.
- Why do we ignore this command _____?

Love in God's Family is Altogether Different

- Frail love cares for _____.
- What kind of love enables us to _____?

How can We Love Our Enemies?

- _____ our enemies.
- _____ for our enemies.
- _____ to our enemies.

Life Enrichment

What about today's teaching challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- Why do you think we tend to put people into two categories – friends and enemies; those we like and those we don't; people who are with us and people who are against us?
- Generally, who do you think American Christians view as their enemies? Why do these people or groups make our enemies list?
- Did you realize that the Bible taught so many times about enemy love? How does this fact help you understand God's purposes more fully?
- Why do you think we find it easy to ignore the command to love our enemies?
- How is love in God's family different from love in the world?
- When Christians talk about *agape*, they tend to focus solely on the "unconditional" nature of love. What other important characteristics does *agape* have?
- How is it possible for us to feel compassion and concern for our enemies? What actions commanded by our texts help move us in that direction?
- Of the loving actions described in our texts, which do you find most difficult to apply to your enemies? What are you planning on doing to show love toward your enemies this week?