

Love Your Enemy | Matthew 5:43-45

When you see the political unrest, the social issues & factor in the current pandemic – it's no wonder the world is unsettling – with people on edge & desperate.

And desperation can cause man to act ungodly & result to violence.

The hate in the heart of a man can surface, but hate is not from GOD.

- † **1 John 4:20** - If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

In America – all over our great country – we are witnessing right now people among us who actually hate America.

They hate our freedoms.

They hate our law enforcement.

They hate the President.

They hate our church.

This is because they don't know JESUS.

- † **1 John 4:8** - He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

GOD's people are taught to love.

Love GOD, Love people.

Love our neighbors, love our community.

And probably one of the toughest commandments – “love our enemy”

Matthew 5:43-45

It makes not logical sense to love our enemy, but GOD always works in a way that don't make sense.

As GOD shapes HIS children into the church HE wants us to be, loving those who have harmed us or who have wronged us, certainly won't come easy.



But neither is boot camp for the American Soldier.

And that is exactly what GOD's are – Soldiers.

We are being trained for a battle to overcome the enemy & overcome hate.

Here are a few suggestions from GOD's word to "Love Your Enemy".

1. ROOT FOR THEM

- † **Matthew 5:44** - 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;
- † **Genesis 50:20** - But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

When you are pulling for them & bless your enemy – GOD will honor that & bless you!

2. TREAT THEM RIGHT

- † **Matthew 5:44** - 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;
- † **Matthew 7:12** - Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

When you treat others the way you want to be treated – GOD will honor that & do good to YOU!

3. PRAY FOR THEM

- † **Matthew 5:44** - 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;**
- † **Proverbs 25:21** - If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink;
- † **Proverbs 25:22** - For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee.
- † **Proverbs 25:23** - The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.

One day, this war is going to be over!

And your reward will be based on what YOU did – not what your enemy did!

