

LOVING OUR ENEMY

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The word “enemy” is defined in Webster’s Dictionary as “a person who hates another and wishes to do him harm or evil.” When we think of the word “enemy” we normally associate it with other corresponding words such as anger, revenge, hate and kill.

However, when Jesus came to this earth and declared Himself to be the Son of God, He brought a new way of viewing and treating our enemies. To His disciples He said, ***“But I say to you who hear:” Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you...But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful (Luke 6:27-28, 32-36).”***

Some may feel that it is an impossibility to love your enemies. But when we realize that we can love our enemies and still not “like” their personality, attitude, life style or moral values—loving them then becomes possible and essential to the Christian. When I love my enemy I can treat him with courtesy and kindness and not wish him any harm or evil...even though I don’t “like” him. Jesus didn’t like King Herod! But He loved him and went to the cross for him.