

Sovereign Grace Church
“Me?.....Love Him?!” outline
August 12, 2018

Matthew 5: 43-48

Wars are fought between enemies! Your enemy may be any sort of person....even someone with similar personal interests as yourself! He will usually have a family, a job, hobbies, and problems...just like you. Often the only significant difference is that he is trying to kill you.....or at least would have no opposition to your death! On the other hand, you are actively trying to kill him....or at least would not be in opposition to his demise.

*Wars are fed by hate at some level. If one prohibits war without prohibiting hate their prohibition of war will fail! Jesus taught that we should forget about prohibiting war and focus on replacing hate with its opposite...love. There is no war in Christ's Kingdom not because it has been legislated against...but because there is no hate! Of course Jesus is talking about personal relationships in Matthew 5.....but wars are merely personal relationships expanded by corporate organization. What if they gave a war and nobody came? Such would be the case when you have two enemies insisting upon loving one another! Doesn't seem to be such a bad thing.
Perhaps we should give Jesus a hearing!*

1. Our Natural Disposition v. 43

Ex. 23:3-4; Prov. 24:17; Deut 10:19; Deut 23:3-6

2. Jesus' Correction vv. 44-45

Rom. 13: 9-10

- **What is Love?**

- **“...that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.” v. 45
Eph. 5: 1-2**

3. **Loving Friends is Good...but not Special. vv. 46-47**
John 10: 10

4. **Summary v. 48**

Telios as “whole/complete”
Matt. 11: 28-30

Telios as “perfect”

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

1. **Do you have any enemies who are presently of immediate concern? By enemy I mean someone with whom you would rather not associate...though you may have no opposition to their continuing to take in air. When you think of them....what comes to mind? Is loving them something that naturally comes to mind? Why would we want to love an enemy? Is Jesus being realistic here? Why do you think he advocates loving our enemies? Wouldn't it mean that we would simply be doormats for our enemies to wipe their feet on? Was Jesus a doormat?**
2. **Are you someone else's enemy (defined broadly). How would you want to be treated by them? Does such a question help in knowing how to treat our own enemies in a loving manner?**
3. **What is the difference between being nice to someone and loving them? What is the difference between being nice to someone actively trying to commit an immoral act and loving them? Might it sometimes be wrong to be nice to someone? Would it ever be wrong to love someone? Do you think that Jesus loved the moneychangers in the Temple? [Jm 2: 13-17] Was He being nice to them?**
4. **Think of an enemy currently in your life. What is your disposition toward this person? How can you cultivate a disposition to love them? How could you go about loving this person in an active way?**