

*"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 5:44 KJV*



God loved me while I was His enemy. *"When we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* His grace and mercy are everlasting testaments to the love He has for us. *"His mercy endureth forever."* We are told to be like our Father in heaven. *"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."* How can an imperfect man be perfect? *"The God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in him. Herein (in Christ) is our love made perfect. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."* How do I "love" my enemy? I do what God does. I look past hatred, and look at a soul headed for eternal damnation *"where the fire is not quenched and the worm dieth not."* If I am saved, born again by the Spirit of God, death is merely my portal to eternal bliss! Not so for the unbeliever. Death for the unbeliever is the beginning of the eternal torment. No escape, ever! *"The smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night."* How do you hate one so pitiful? One moment of repentance becomes an eternity of rapture! Believers can see what the unbeliever cannot. Instead of being angry with the blind man, bring him to Jesus (preach the Gospel) to heal his blindness! You were blind once. Do you remember? Always remember where Christ found you! Some of our worst persecution comes from other believers! What do I do? I pray for them. I don't pray against them, I pray FOR them. Forgiveness for others in Christ can only be found when I truly start to pray FOR them. God's forgives those that seek Him. It is not random or arbitrary, but given to *"whosoever will"* come. Christ didn't condemn those who crucified Him, instead, He pleaded with the Father, *"Forgive them for they know not what they do!"* Before the agony of Gethsemane He prayed for us, the unborn repentant enemy, that we might believe and share His glory. *"I have given them Thy Word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil."* Should we do any less for our tormentors? This life is only a vapour. Let's not waste it in anger and frustration. Keep the mind of Christ (God's Word), and have His peace. Always be ready to forgive the truly penitent.

Only one life, 'twill soon be past.

Only what's done for Christ will last.

Believers would have more fellowship if we thought more of Christ and less on other's faults. No one is perfect except in the love of God. Stick to areas of agreement and do not *"sow discord among the brethren."* God will sort it. Heretics are God's enemy, but God won't deal with your tormentors until your heart is right!

*"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.' Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:18-21 KJV*