

Love Your Enemies

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Gray

Introduction

1. Matthew 5:43-48
2. The sermon on the Mount is a magnificent sermon which proclaims the characteristics of the citizens of His kingdom
3. In our section He is teaching His disciples to love their enemies.
4. If we are persons of His kingdom then we too must work on having these characteristics.
5. Let us notice what they had heard, what He said, and what does that mean.

II Discussion

1. What they had heard
 - a. This contrast is part of this sermon verses 21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43
 - b. What they had heard was a misunderstanding and misapplication of God's instruction
 - c. Their ungodly attitude was contrary to God's revealed will Exodus 23:4-5; Deuteronomy 23:7' Leviticus 19:18
 - d. They were to love their neighbor, but who is the neighbor?
 - i. It was only those who were their friends John 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16
 - ii. Neighbor is anyone who is in need or near Luke 10:25-29; 30-37
 - iii. Thus love (27), compassion (33) and mercy (37) are to be extended to our "neighbor"
2. What He said to them
 - a. He came to do the will of the Father John 6:38; 9:4
 - b. He is talking to those who would be the salt and the light to the world 5:13-16
 - c. He taught them that their righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees 5:20
 - d. We must choose whether we will listen to, the King of Kings (1 Timothy 6:15); to the devil (John 8:44) or to mortal men (Matthew 15:9)?
3. What does this mean?
 - a. Love your enemies
 - i. The most unique and difficult command
 - ii. Treating our enemies like our own family
 - iii. God's love for the sinful world John 3:16; Romans 5:8
 - iv. The explanation of love would fit to our enemy 1 Corinthians 13:1-7
 - v. If we love those who love us, it is no different from the world 5:46-47
 - b. Bless them
 - i. Not railing upon them 1 Peter 3:9; Romans 12:14
 - ii. Jesus set the example 1 Peter 2:19-24; Luke 23:34
 - iii. Our fellowship cannot be with a railer 1 Corinthians 5:11
 - iv. We are blessed when this happens to us 5:11-12
 - c. Do good to them
 - i. David and Saul Psalm 41:5-9
 - ii. Solomon tells us how to treat him Proverbs 25:21-22; Romans 12:20-21
 - d. Pray for them
 - i. Not like the Pharisees Luke 18:11-12
 - ii. Not like His own disciples wanted to pray Luke 9:54
 - iii. Yet like the Lord Luke 23:34
 - iv. Like Stephen Acts 7:60

III Conclusion

1. When enemies have falsely condemned us, wrongly convicted us and have done all they can to destroy us, this truth still stands, “The Lord knoweth them that are his” 2 Timothy 2:19
2. The benefits for carrying out the commands of God are many; one is we will become like the Father.
3. There is the benefit of showing to the world, our enemies, the true agape love of God.
4. There is benefit to the church, the bride of Christ, the body of Christ
5. There is benefit for us as members
6. Yet are you a member of His body, the bride of Christ?

Sources: Yokefellows Vol. 34 No. 6 Bobby Liddell; The sermon on the Mount the constitution of Christianity by Eldred Stevens; Word Study Greek-English New Testament Paul McReynolds; Commentary on Matthew, Matthew Henry