

### Chapter 1 : How to Love Your Enemies | Keep Believing Ministries

*This compassionate book describes the making of enemies in our personal, social, and national lives. It goes on to outline a nonviolent approach to resolving enmity wherever it arises. It taps the rich resources of Jesus' two-thousand-year-old formula, "Love your enemies" with the help of our contemporary understanding of Gandhian active.*

Are we really supposed to pray for people who hate us? It seems almost masochistic -- a surefire recipe for psychological disaster. He stands up and says, "I have no enemies whatsoever! And tell us all how it is that you have no enemies. There are people in our families who hold a grudge against us for some mysterious reason that we can never comprehend. And there are people who seem to dislike us or wish us ill for no good reason. And sometimes, when we hear Jesus telling us to love our enemies, it seems to make things even harder. In the Gospel of Matthew 5: But I say to you love your enemies. How are we supposed to love our enemies sincerely? Are we really supposed to pray for For people who hate us? For people who work against us? For people who want us to fail? A few things might help us understand what Jesus means. The Gospel of Matthew specifies that the "right cheek. So that may help us understand things. Likewise, the word Jesus used when he talks about loving your enemies is not the same word that is used in other discussions of love. In ancient Greek, the language of the Gospels, there are three words for love: But the word Jesus uses here is the third kind of love, agape, a sort of unconquerable benevolence or invincible goodwill. Jesus is asking us to agape people no matter what they do to us, no matter how they treat us, no matter how they insult us. No matter what their actions we never allow bitterness against them to invade our hearts, but will treat them with goodwill. It simply means we must open our hearts to them. And pray for them, too. Because when you pray for them, God often opens your heart to seeing people the way that God sees them, rather than the way you see them. And you can often have pity for people who may be filled with anger toward you. But even when you understand all these things, and even if you read Scripture commentaries, these remain difficult things to hear. Even harder to follow. Loving your enemies and pray for those who persecute you is hard. Many years ago, for example, I lived with another Jesuit who simply refused to talk to me. No matter what I did, nothing changed his attitude. Over the course of many years, in light of that experience, and in light of meditating on the Gospels, I realized three things about loving your enemies. First of all, some people may simply dislike you. You can be open to reconciliation, but you have no control over whether someone will reconcile with you. Part of this process is embracing your own powerlessness. Letting go is paramount. Second, turning away from insults, hatred and contempt and "offering the other cheek" is emotionally healthy. Now, some schools of psychology say that you should always give vent to anger rather than let it fester but always responding with vituperation or vengefulness is rather a childish thing to do. Only a baby gives vent to his or her anger all the time. Third, loving your enemies and praying for those who persecute you is liberating. You see this in families and even in office environments, where people are trapped into cycles of vengefulness. It wears both parties down and dehumanizes everyone involved. Jesus is offering us a way out of all that. So you have heard that it was said, and you have heard that it was said to you by Jesus, who wants you to be happy.

### Chapter 2 : Love Your Enemies (Luke ) -- JesusWalk

*Edit Article How to Love Your Enemies. In this Article: Forgiving Your Enemies Showing Compassion to Your Enemy Finding New Allies Community Q&A One of the great moral commands of the The Bible says that you should "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew ).*

The, the definite article. Including the feminine he, and the neuter to in all their inflections; the definite article; the. A prolonged form of a primary verb dio; to pursue; by implication, to persecute. The person pronoun of the second person singular; thou. Taking it as it stands here, we note 1 the extension of the command to love our neighbour Leviticus In such cases, circumstances may preclude acts which would be rejected, and words that would be met with scorn, but the prayer that they too may be delivered from the evil which has been their curse is always in our power, and in so praying we are drawing near to the mind of God, and asking that our wills may be as His. Pulpit Commentary Verse But I say unto you, Love your enemies. Of all kinds, whether personal or opponents of you as Christians. Bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you. Rightly omitted by the Revised Version as interpolated from Luke, For the thought, cf. In fullest contrast to the continual ill-wishing of the enemy. Thus to pray is to come very near to the spirit of Christ cf. As a modern example: For them that despitefully use you, and persecute you. The words, "that despitefully use you and," are to be omitted, with the Revised Version, as in effect interpolated from Luke. Matthew Henry Commentary 5: The Lord Jesus teaches that we must do all the real kindness we can to all, especially to their souls. We must pray for them. While many will render good for good, we must render good for evil; and this will speak a nobler principle than most men act by. Others salute their brethren, and embrace those of their own party, and way, and opinion, but we must not so confine our respect. It is the duty of Christians to desire, and aim at, and press towards perfection in grace and holiness. And therein we must study to conform ourselves to the example of our heavenly Father, 1Pe 1: Surely more is to be expected from the followers of Christ than from others; surely more will be found in them than in others. Let us beg of God to enable us to prove ourselves his children.

### Chapter 3 : Love Your Enemies Verse - Luke

*How to Love Your Enemies. So it's useless to try to "get" them to like you, much less to love you. It's useless to try to change them. You can be open to reconciliation, but you have no.*

Michael Bradley This next Bible Verse for the day has to be without question, one of the hardest for many of us to actually abide by in this life. This next verse is coming direct from Jesus. He is telling us that we will need to love our enemies, bless those who will curse us, and do good to those who will hate us. As we all know, every single one of us will cross paths with some people who will end up not liking us and in some extreme cases, even hate us. And that could come our way even if we have done nothing to them to warrant receiving that kind of hate. As long as we have to journey through this fallen and cursed world, we will all have to learn how to handle these types of people when they do come our way. And Jesus gives us very good advice in this next verse on exactly how He wants us to handle our enemies. Here is this most profound verse: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. 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 Highest. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. But with the Holy Spirit and His power residing on the inside of us, I believe it is possible to do with some of these kinds of people. To those of you who are having a real hard time with this kind of directive from the Lord, just go to God the Father in prayer, and ask Him by the power of the Holy Spirit , to give you the love and grace to be able to obey the commands of this verse. If you do, the Holy Spirit will help you out by giving you His love so you can then start to operate on His love and patience, as your own love and patience may not be enough to be able to handle some of these types of people. You can tell by the way Jesus is wording this verse, that this is a real big thing with Him, and we should all do our best to abide by it, since we will all come across a certain number of people in this life who are simply not going to like us. Be the first to know when we publish new articles.

### Chapter 4 : How to Love Your Enemies and Pray for Them | GodLife

*I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you. Prayer for your enemies is one of the deepest forms of love, because it means that you have to really want that something good happen to them.*

What he says IS true, of course. But we must take it as it is meant. And we must take it very seriously. He probably uses hyperbole only to highlight a concept that his hearers are likely to miss without it. When Jesus speaks in hyperbole, we must be a thousand times more careful to listen. Refuse to Retaliate 6: "If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic" 6: "Even though provoked, instead of lashing out, you turn the other cheek. Remember, the context is enemies, those who insult us and seek to embarrass us. How can we love when we hit back with something that will wound our opponent? Husbands and wives sometimes get into arguments; tensions that may have been simmering for years boil over once again. And with the boiling comes anger, and with anger a willingness not just to defend, but to strike back. To get an advantage. To have the last word. The second command is harder yet to understand. But the principle is the same -- after all, this is Hebrew parallelism. When your enemy takes your cloak, remember that you love him. You are praying for him. You are blessing him and seeking his good. You love him, remember? Let him have your tunic also. I can hear you say. But with the Spirit of Jesus working through you he can teach you to love your enemies -- even at their ugliest. After all, we can learn from the masters of patience, and repeated forgiveness. The Father told Hosea to marry a prostitute and have children by her. Inevitably she returned to her old ways, and left Hosea. But he went searching for her, and brought her back and forgave her. I hear the old, old story of the searching Father loud and clear in the story of Hosea, as I do in the story of the Prodigal Son. On the cross, this is how Jesus treated his enemies Jesus is seeking to train disciples to think and act and love like he does. Turning the other cheek is indeed what he did as the soldiers spat on him and flogged him, and jammed a thorny crown into his scalp and mocked him as king. Was he tempted to retaliate. That is the radical lesson of verse They are about loving enemies in a radical way. If we seek to make a new law that overrides the civil law in Exodus against violent crime we miss the point. The same goes for people taking your clothes off. If you were to take this verse literally, nudity would be the result. This is hyperbole to make a point: That would be foolish. Possessions Are Less Important than Love 6: Verse 31 follows along in the same vein as vs. Our love is to transcend evil deeds. Does Jesus mean that we are to give to every beggar or con man we meet? He expects us to be good stewards of our money. The point is how we treat our enemies, the radical way we love them. The Golden Rule 6: Scholars observe that it has been stated negatively by many before Jesus. The great Rabbi Hillel, for example, taught, "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor: When Jesus turns this to a positive, it IS radical. It states for us clearly how we are to exercise love. We are to treat people the way we would like to be treated. There is still the strong current of radical love of the Father. But he has shown us grace, and now expects his disciples to dispense that same grace and graciousness to the world in his name. Exceed the Self-Aware Goodwill of Unbelievers 6: And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even "sinners," unbelievers, shrewd but relatively moral people, care about their friends. Unselfish, serving love -- agape love -- is what he is illustrating here. Self-love seeks repayment -- the sooner the better. Agape love seeks no repayment. But there will be a day when we will be repaid in full. There will be a payday, someday. But we are not to seek it now, in this life. The eyes of faith are trained to look beyond the seen, to the unseen. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" 6: But now he narrows the view again to enemies. Anyone can love friends -- and we must -- but the test of real love comes with loving enemies. And into that school Jesus thrusts his disciples. Jesus gives three commands as the elements of this pass-fail exam: Love your enemies Lend to them without expecting to get anything back. On Lending In America we live in a credit culture. Young people are encouraged to incur a little debt and then pay it back at regular intervals in order to develop a credit rating. People commonly borrow to buy a house, buy a car, purchase living room furniture. Buy now, pay later. When we read about lending in the Bible we need to purge

our thoughts of borrowing for these purposes. Moneylenders were tolerated in First Century Palestine. There was no Small Business Administration loan to provide a "grubstake" to begin a business. Business loans were a much later development. Jews were prohibited to loan on interest to other Jews, especially to help them subsist. The Law provided considerable protection to the poor, when it was enforced. Borrowing was not entered into lightly. People lent to family members. Sometimes they were paid back, often they were not. The lender could demand repayment, and if it were not forthcoming, he could throw the debtor into prison until he would pay his debt. Matthew 5: This seems counter-intuitive to us. Family and friends, having pity on their blood relative -- or feeling shame for not doing anything for their own flesh and blood -- would ante up, pay off the debt, and the debtor would be released. But what if the debtor had no family or friends? What if he were a miserable good-for-nothing whose friends had long ago deserted him? What if he were threatened with prison. Forgiven Debtors Then, says Jesus, the Christians whom he is persecuting should ante up on his behalf and lend the money to get him released. No matter if the Christian is not repaid. That, Jesus says, is real mercy. Mercy to those who have no way of repayment? And disciples of Jesus must learn to be merciful. Not when it is useful. Not when it is convenient. Not when the recipient is worthy. Mercy is never justified.

### Chapter 5 : How to Love Your Enemies | HuffPost

*This compassionate book describes the making of enemies in our personal, social, and national lives. It goes on to outline a nonviolent approach to resolving enmity wherever it arises.*

One Comment If we can learn to love those whom we would otherwise call our enemies, we can grow closer to the Father. In this very familiar passage, Christ Jesus tells us that by simply loving those who love us, there is nothing to be gained. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Bombings, mass shootings, decapitations on a large scale, stabbings, assaults, and on and on, the world has become a pool of hostility over the most recent few decades. Conflict has long been seen as the way to issue resolution between enemies. That which represents itself as my mind brought an interesting tidbit of data to the surface recently. I do not recall the source of the data, but, the statement had been made that there was only one period of years during the recorded history of the world which was free of war, and that was during the Egyptian rule, clearly a few thousand years ago. Two World Wars and many lesser conflicts later, and the world had not changed that much. My father had gone to a town meeting when he had a knife pulled on him since the fellow holding the knife believed that my father did not pay school taxes as his sons went to parochial schools. Fortunately, the moderator and sergeant-at-arms were able to calm the situation and assure the fellow that my father indeed paid the same taxes as everyone else in the meeting. Other than the knife issue, there was not a great deal of direct hostility which I recall as my parents tried their very best to shield their two boys from the environment. Fast forward 60 or so years and there are aircraft slamming into buildings, mass shootings in movie theatres, night clubs, schools, there are hundreds of young women taken hostage from their schools, and there are protestations caused by police shooting alleged perpetrators. Police are castigated as a person who may have been stopped for a traffic citation, runs, fails to pay attention to the order to stop, and fails to stop at the sound of a warning shot, and is ultimately stopped by a bullet – if the shot is fatal or not, the cop of any race is held in suspicion. Following the bombing of the Alfred P. In an article published in April, the Pew Research Center indicated that the population of Muslims worldwide was approximately 1. This number is expected to grow, for a variety of reasons, to 2. If we carry this further and presume that there are only one-hundredth of one percent who wish to totally destroy the infidel population of the US, that is only people. Are we not asking if the entire population should be punished if only a few dozen are, in fact, bent on destruction? We are called to love, we are also called to pray for those who wish us harm, even our enemies. Keep a watchful eye, avoid things likely to bring harm to yourself and your family, pray the rosary, pray and if all else fails, pray.

*The love of Christ is so great it can even save His enemies. God's love reaches out to the whole world and continues through the entire length of our lives.*

His love is so deep, it can reach you in discouragement and depression. He even reached Lazarus after he had been in His grave four days. Jesus displayed His love for His enemies as He was dying. While Jesus was on the cross, He was praying for those who placed the nails in His hands and feet. Is there anyone else who could love like this? Jesus was praying for the Roman politicians and soldiers who were putting Him to death. What is your first reaction when you are wronged? Do you plan revenge or show anger? Jesus tells us in Matthew 5: Pray for those who persecute you! Jesus tells us not to do this. If you pray for your enemies, you can overcome evil with good. We must trust in the Holy Spirit to help us show love to our enemies. Have You Forgiven Past Wrongs? Sometimes we hold grudges, even after a person dies. In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven! If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? That means we should forgive enemies of the past as well as in those of the present. Father, I want to forgive those who have offended me. I want to show mercy to them. Did you love your enemies and forgive them?

### Chapter 7 : 16 Top Bible Verses about Enemies - Encouraging Scripture

*So what does the Bible say about understanding your enemies to love them? Well, we know that the Bible says we were the enemies of God when Christ came and died for us. (Rom ) And though this was the ultimate act of love towards us, his enemies, we can't forget the thirty-some-odd years before that.*

The Babylonians were not nice people. There is no such category. To spread their kingdom, the Babylonians acted ruthlessly against anyone who dared to oppose them. Life was cheap, death was easy, and torture a means of sending a message to future foes. Seek to bless and be a blessing. Pray for the Babylonians. They certainly need the prayers. And you, my people, need to pray. As you pray, I will bless them. And in blessing them, you too will be blessed. God Nothing seems more natural than to hate those who have mistreated us. But here we learn a better way. After I had preached on this topic, a man said to me, "Everything the world says about human relationships is wrong! Every time we are faced with people who mistreat us, we have three options: That will emotionally exhaust us. That opens the door for God to bless us as well. What does it mean to love the people who have ruined everything you hold dear? How do you pray for someone you despise? How do you seek the good of people you wish were dead? Why would you seek their prosperity after what they did to you? Here are seven suggestions that will move us in the right direction. One part of loving our enemies is greeting them graciously when we see them. But if we only greet our friends, what benefit is that? Do not even sinners greet each other? One part of loving your enemies is to greet them instead of avoiding them. Smile, shake hands, and say hello to your enemies. You disarm them by doing the very thing they least expect. You do it by speaking well of them when no one expects it. The general responded that he thought the man a very fine officer. Doing good to your enemies means seeing beyond your pain and their meanness to their humanity. It means seeing them as people made in the image of God and understanding there is something twisted inside that causes them to do what they do. Doing good means doing what will promote their healing despite the way they have treated you. You make the first move. You send the e-mail. You pick up the phone. You make the contact. You bridge the gap. You set up the appointment. Make the first move and let the Lord take care of the results. It means you choose not to think evil thoughts, and you refuse to speak evil words against those who have wronged you. Proverbs has a great deal to say about the power of words. Every time we open our mouth, life or death comes out. I am increasingly impressed with this thought: Forgiveness in many cases is not possible because we will not stop talking. As long as we talk over and over again about how others have hurt us, we will never find the strength to forgive. At some point, we have to stop talking and start forgiving. Here is the simple truth: You can criticize the Babylonians, or You can pray for them. Some of us need to take a vow of silence I once knew a man whose wife had been repeatedly and publicly criticized for something she had written. Perhaps some of us need to take a vow of silence so we can let go of bitterness and get on with life. I believe God places in your life every person you need for your spiritual growth. God uses each one to teach you something and to make you more like Jesus. Who is your Judas? Behind your enemy stands the hand of God. God would never permit it if he did not intend to bring something good out of it. You should take a picture of your enemy, stick it on your refrigerator door, and thank God for your enemy every time you look at the picture. Other prisoners asked why he prayed for those who were his enemies. But what if you hate the person you are praying for? Tell that to the Lord. When faced with someone who has mistreated you, ask God to do for them what you want God to do for you. Seek the blessing for them you want God to do for you. Think of it this way: A woman wrote me to say she realized she needed to forgive her husband who left her for another woman after many years of marriage. She found out he had been having an affair for the previous year. To make matters worse, she discovered that some of her friends not only knew about the affair, they were aiding her husband and helping him cover up his infidelity. When she wrote to me, she said she realized she had never truly forgiven those friends for what they had done. Here is her story: Today I wrote to four people the Lord brought to my mind that I needed to pray for, ask for a blessing for them, and I felt the drive to write to them and tell them I had asked God for them to receive a blessing from God. Yet, after writing the emails, I felt better and more at peace. This is a good example

because she did not mention their sin. She simply wrote to say she was praying for them to receive a blessing from the Lord. How did they respond to those notes? She did what she needed to do, and it set her free. Your enemy is a gift from God to you. Let me offer one final word: Your enemy is a gift from God to you. To say that is not to excuse evil or to condone mistreatment. It does not cancel the need for punishment when a crime has been committed. Our enemies humble us, they keep us on our knees, they reveal our weakness, and they expose our desperate need for God. Just as David needed King Saul to pursue him, to persecute him and repeatedly attempt to kill him, we need the enemies God sends to us. Therefore, we thank God who knows best, and we love our enemies the best way we can. Often God raises up an enemy to see if we really want to be like Jesus. He will keep our enemies alive and well as long as we need them. He loved them anyway. Do you want to be like Jesus? Martin Luther King, Jr. As he came to the end of his sermon, he said there is a little tree planted on a little hill and on that tree hangs the most influential person who ever came into this world. In the cross of Christ, the love of God has broken through into human history. Now we know what love looks like in a world filled with hatred, distrust, bitterness, pain, mistreatment and abuse. Love is the only way! It is a message from God that love is the only way. I would rather die than hate you. Heavenly Father, some of us desperately need this message right now. Give us grace to love our enemies. Going Deeper Who are the enemies in your life? Which is harder for you to speak to your enemies or to pray for your enemies? Why did Jesus tell us to turn the other cheek? Name someone who is a good role model of showing love to difficult people. What steps do you need to take to love your enemies?

### Chapter 8 : What did Jesus mean when He instructed us to love our enemies?

*I think "love your enemies" is the most unreasonable thing Jesus says. And that's saying something, because it's coming from a guy who also says stuff like "eat my flesh and drink my blood," "hate your mother and father" and "sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor" (John , Luke and Matthew*

### Chapter 9 : How to Love Your Enemies: 12 Steps (with Pictures) - wikiHow

*If you love your enemies and "pray for those who persecute you," you then truly reveal that Jesus is Lord of your life. By using an illustration of the sun rising and the rain falling on both the good and the evil, Jesus shows God's indiscriminating love to all people.*