

A Sacrifice for Enemies?

*Therefore I'm sending you prophets, sages, and teachers.
Some of them you will kill and/crucify; others you will flog
in your synagogues and pursue from town to town.
Matthew 23:34*

"Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?"

Review: Our Response to God's Mercy: a Living Sacrifice

Present your bodies: *Living, acceptable, holy sacrifice* Rom 12:1
Don't be conformed: *Be transformed by renewing your mind* 2
Think: *Not more highly of yourself, but with sound judgment* 3
Your Living Service: *in One-Anotherness* 4-5
in Giftedness 6-8
in Christlikeness 9-15
in Enemyness 16-21

We Are to Love Our Enemies

An enemy: *One who chooses to not love, respect, or benefit you.*

The Positives: The DO's!

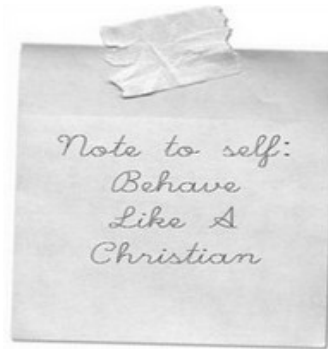
Bless your persecutors
 Rejoice with rejoicers
 Mourn with mourners
 Live in harmony with one another
 Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone
 Live at peace with everyone. (If possible, as depends on you)
 Leave room for God's wrath
 Overcome evil with good
 If your enemy is hungry, feed him
 If he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

The Negatives: The DON'T's!

Don't curse (those who persecute you)
 Don't repay anyone evil for evil
 Don't take revenge
 Don't be overcome by evil

The Underlying Theology

For it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.
 You will heap burning coals on his head.



Why Should We Love Enemies?

God Loves His Enemies

For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Romans 5:8-10

God Wants Us to Imitate Him

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Matthew 5:48

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 1 Peter 1:14-16

Jesus Warned Us of Enemies

If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first
 If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own
 You don't belong to the world, I've chosen you out of the world
 That is why the world hates you John 15:18-19

Many will turn from the faith and betray [you] Matthew 24:9-10

See also: Philipians 3:18; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-14

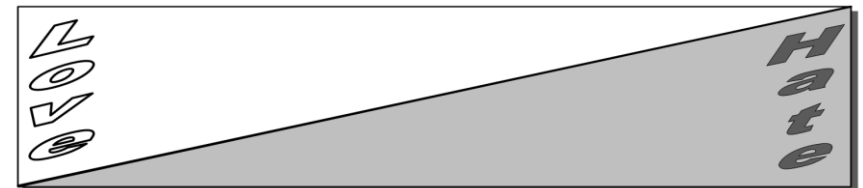
Jesus' Taught Us to Love All, Clearly Including Those Enemies

Love for God Matthew 22:38 (Luke 10:27)
 Love for your neighbor Matthew 22:39 (Mark 12:31)
 Love for fellow disciples John 15:12 (John 13:34)
 Love for enemies Matthew 5:44 (Luke 6:27, Luke 6:35)

A Word About Sincere Love

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor evil; cling to good. Romans 12:9

As love diminishes, hate fills the void.



As love grows, it pushes away hate.