



## What Does Jesus Have to Say? ABOUT ENEMIES

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*"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."*  
Galatians 5:6 (NIV)

### What Does Jesus Mean When He Says, "Love?"

Romantic love is an UNCONTROLLABLE FEELING.

Jesus' idea of love (*agape*) is

1. A CHOICE you make

*"And over all virtues, put on love which binds them all together..."*

Colossians 3:14 (NIV)

2. An ACTION you take

*"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." 1 John*

3:18 (NIV)

### What Does Jesus Say About Enemies?

Jesus: *"But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*  
Matthew 5:44 (NRSV)

Jesus says that real, full-grown love is LOVING AN ENEMY.

Joseph Campbell--"I think the main teaching of Christianity is love your enemies."

*"If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?...Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*  
Matthew 5:46-48 (NIV)

Teleios ("perfect") = mature, full grown

over →

*"In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you." Matthew 5:48 (MSG)*

### How to Love an Enemy

#### 1. Refuse to RETALIATE

*"Do not repay anyone evil for evil.... Do not take revenge, my friends..."* Romans 12:17, 19 (NIV)

*"Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. 'I'll do the judging,' says God. 'I'll take care of it.'" Romans 12:19 (MSG)*

Love is giving a person what they NEED, not what they DESERVE.

#### 2. Respond POSITIVELY

*"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21 (NIV)*

*"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Matthew 5:44 (NIV)*

What Jesus tells us to offer our enemies is *understanding, creative, redeeming goodwill*.

#### 3. Remember my REWARD

*"Since we are God's children ... if we share Christ's suffering, we will also share in his glory." Romans 8:17 (GN)*



*"There's far more to this life than trusting in Christ. There's also suffering for him. And the suffering is as much a gift as the trusting." Philipians 1:29 (MSG)*