

House Church Gathering Discussion Questions
Sunday July 19, 2026
“Loving the Enemy vs (Karma / Tribalism)”

Scripture: Matthew 5:43-48

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Summary: Jesus' command to love our enemies is one of the most distinctive teachings of Christianity. Instead of seeking revenge or limiting love to those who are like us, Jesus calls us to extend the same grace we have received. Unlike the idea of karma, where people receive what they deserve, the gospel proclaims that Christ took the judgment we deserved and offers us forgiveness. Unlike tribalism, which divides the world into "us" and "them," Christianity invites us to love all people because every person bears God's image. Grace breaks the cycle of retaliation and reflects the heart of our Heavenly Father.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think loving our enemies is one of Jesus' most difficult commands? What makes it so challenging?
2. How does remembering that God loved us while we were still His enemies (Romans 5:8–10) change the way we view people who have hurt us?
3. Where do you see "tribalism" or an "us versus them" mentality in our culture, and how can Christians demonstrate the love of Christ in those situations?