

4) _____ & _____ ... *Take The High Road.*

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.
(Matthew 5:44)

Through the medium of prayer we go to our enemy, stand by his side, and plead for him to God. Jesus does not promise that when we bless our enemies and do good to them they will not spitefully use and persecute us. They certainly will. But not even that hurt can overcome us, so long as we pray for them. ... We are doing vicariously for them what they cannot do for themselves. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

To you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.
(Luke 6:27-28)

The rule for us is perfectly simple. Do not waste time bothering whether you "love" your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less. (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

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

Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."
(Acts 7:60)

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Michael Yearley

Love

The Final Challenge

The Spark

Loving People

Doing Relationships A Whole New Way

All passages, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version of the Bible.
You can download the free YouVersion Bible app that includes the NIV translation at your favorite app store.

Love

The Final Challenge

Matthew 5:43-48

You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 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. 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.

(Matthew 5:43-48)

Love

The Ultimate Vision

⇒ _____ ... Has A _____.

Ephesians 4:22-24/Colossians 3:9-10/Luke 6:40

The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher. (Luke 6:40)

I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. ... Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:44-45, 48)

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ... While we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son. (Romans 5:8, 10)

Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. (Luke 23:34)

Love

Embracing The Challenge

1) _____ ... The _____.

2) _____ ... Your _____.

If you are suffering from a bad man's injustice, forgive him lest there be two bad men. (St. Augustine)

3) _____ ... For _____.