

The Better Life of Peace

SERIES: LIVING THE BETTER LIFE - Part 5 of 5

Matthew 5:43-44 (NIV) “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.”

Proverbs 25:21-22 (MSG) “If you see your enemy hungry, go buy him lunch; if he’s thirsty, bring him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness and God will look after you.”

Proverbs 12:20 (NLT) “Joy fills hearts that are planning peace.”

Romans 5:8 (NIV) “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Benefits of Loving Our Enemies

1. There’s a **PHYSICAL** benefit.

Proverbs 14:30 (NIV) “A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.”

2. There’s a **PSYCHOLOGICAL** benefit.

Proverbs 23:7 (NASB) “For as a person thinks within himself, so he is.”

3. There’s a **RELATIONAL** benefit.

Proverbs 17:9 (MSG) “Overlook an offense and bond a friendship; fasten on to a slight and – goodbye, friend!”

4. There’s a **SPIRITUAL** benefit

Matthew 6:15 (NIV) “But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Proverbs 11:25 (MSG) “The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed....”

5. There’s a **KINGDOM** benefit.

Matthew 5:46-48 (MSG) “If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that.... You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like it.... Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”

The **P-E-A-C-E** Process

Romans 12:18 (NIV) “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

Step #1: PRAY

Proverbs 15:29 (The Message) “God...closely attends to the prayers of God-loyal people.”

Luke 6:28 (NIV). “...Pray for those who mistreat you.”

Step #2: EMPATHIZE

Leviticus 19:18. “Never seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone, but love your neighbor as yourself.”

Step #3: ACT

Luke 6:27 (NIV) “...Do good to those who hate you....”

Proverbs 25:21 (The Message) “If you see your enemy hungry, go buy him lunch; if he’s thirsty, bring him a drink....”

Luke 6:28 (NIV) “Bless those who curse you....”

Step #4: CONFESS

Proverbs 20:9 (NLT). “Who can say, ‘I have cleansed my heart; I am pure and free from sin?’”

Proverbs 28:13 (NIV) “He who conceals his sins does not prosper....”

Step #5: EMULATE

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV) “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

“Proverbs 16:7 When the ways of people please the Lord, He makes even their enemies live at peace with them.”