

The Better Life of Peace
Living the Better Life – Part 4
June 10, 2018

Matthew 5:43-44 (NIV) *“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.”*

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) *“Deceit fills hearts that are plotting evil; joy fills hearts that are planning peace!”*

WHO?
WHAT?

**Love your enemy as a person who matters
to God just like you do.**

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

WHY?

Benefits Of Loving Our Enemies...

1. There is a physical benefit.

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

2. There is a psychological benefit.

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

3. There is a relational benefit.

Proverbs 17:9 (CEV) *“You will keep your friends if you forgive them, but you will lose your friends if you keep talking about what they did wrong.”*

4. There is a spiritual benefit.

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

Proverbs 11:25 (MSG) *“The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.”*

5. There is 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.⁴⁸ 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.”*

You can become like a magnet that draws other people toward God's kingdom.

HOW?

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

The PEACE Process

P – Pray

For yourself.

Philippians 4:13 (NIV) *"I can do all this through Him who gives me strength."*

Proverbs 15:29 (NIV) *"The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous."*

For your enemy.

Luke 6:28 (GNT) *"Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you."*

E – Empathize

Leviticus 19:18 (GNT) *"Do not take revenge on others or continue to hate them but love your neighbors as you love yourself. I am the Lord."*

A – Act

Luke 6:27 (NLT) *"But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you."*

Proverbs 25:21 (NIV) *"If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink."*

Luke 6:28a (NIV) *"Bless those who curse you."*

C – Confess

Proverbs 20:9 (NLT) *"Who can say, 'I have cleansed my heart; I am pure and free from sin?'"*

Proverbs 28:13 (NIV) *"Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy."*

E - Emulate

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV) *"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."*

Proverbs 16:7 (NLT) *"When people's lives please the Lord, even their enemies are at peace with them."*

WHEN?

WHERE?