

Lord, if I only treat well those I agree with, those who are kind to me, those who love me, then I am not showing the world Your love. Help me to love those who disagree with me, those who are unkind, those who are filled with hate.

Use me to spread peace and love throughout the world.



God, make me willing to open my heart to those people I do not like. Turn my enemies into friends. You have power to transform all relationships. Do what seems impossible. Bring harmony and friendship to my world.



Jesus, You treated Your enemies with love and respect. Help me follow Your example. May I not be overcome by evil, but instead, by the power of Your Spirit, may I overcome evil with good.

(Romans 12:21)

Enemies



“You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend,’ and it’s unwritten companion ‘Hate your enemy.’ I am challenging that. I am telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you and not the worst...Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”

Matthew 5:43-44, 48 MSG



Dear Jesus, help me to follow Your example always. Let me not work to get even with those who have hurt me. Remind me that if I seek revenge, I am only multiplying the evil in this world. Instead, help me to love.



Lord bless this person who hurt me so badly. Do good in his life. Be with the person who disagrees with me. Bring good things to her. I ask that Your love would shine in her life.

Sometimes Christians ignore what Jesus says here in the Gospel of Matthew. We make enemies out of the people we do not approve of, the people who disagree with what we believe, who have different politics, different values, different agendas. We might deny that we treat them like enemies-but do we act as though we love them? Do we give them our best? Do we pray for them with all our energy?

Jesus tells us that we cannot be His mature followers-in fact, we cannot even realize our own God-given identities-if we do not start treating everyone, including our enemies, with the same grace and generosity God has shown us.

Holy Spirit, fill me with Your love. Help me not only to love You but all those whom You have created. Teach me not to be so sensitive to slights and insults. Help me to focus always on what is good for others, rather than for myself. Teach me to love as You love.



God, You know how angry I feel right now with this person. Show me her perspective. You know how hurt I am. Reveal to me the ways that I have hurt her. You know that I am filled with hate. Turn my hate into Your love.