

A wooden head silhouette is shown on a dark wood background. Inside the head, several gears of various sizes and colors (brass, steel) are visible. A magnifying glass with a brass frame and handle is positioned over the head, focusing on a large brass gear. The text 'Do we really want to be wise?' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Do we

really

want to be

wise?

Enemy Love

Matthew 5.43-47 (NIV11)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour 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.”

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’

Leviticus 19.18,
Mark 12.31,33,

Matthew 5.43, 19.19, 22.39
Luke 10.27

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

“ ‘Do not go about spreading slander among your people.

“ ‘Do not do anything that endangers your neighbour’s life. I am the Lord.

“ ‘Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbour frankly so you will not share in their guilt.

“ ‘Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.’ ”

Leviticus 19.16-18 (NIV11)

How to make an enemy into a neighbour through love.

For Jesus – love your neighbour
= love your enemy

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

We pray for them

But I tell you, love your enemies and
pray for those who persecute you

Can you imagine a more radical, more beautiful, more healthy command than 'love your enemies'?

*He causes his sun to rise on the evil
and the good, and sends rain on the
righteous and the unrighteous.*

This is what Father God is like
and when we love our enemies
we become more like him!

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?

We greet our enemies

*Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly
Father is perfect.*

Perfect = end goal, complete,
whole, mature, reached full
development, come of age

The less we love our enemies
the more immature we are,
The more we love our enemies
the more mature we are

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6.36 (NIV11)

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

For if, while we were God's enemies,
we were reconciled to him through the
death of his Son, how much more,
having been reconciled, shall we be
saved through his life!

Romans 5.6-8,10 (NIV11)

Enemy love is the call of Jesus
on all his followers – take up
your cross and follow me

Who are your enemies?

What are you going to do to
turn them into neighbours?

What will you do to become
more like Father God?