

I. Why should we love our enemies?

A. Jesus commands it

B. Jesus demonstrates it

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

II. How are we to love our enemies?

A. By choosing to love them with God’s love

“God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” (Romans 5:5)

1. God’s love is a giving love

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

2. God’s love is a sacrificial love

3. God’s love is an unselfish love

B. By doing good things for them

“If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat, if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.” (Proverbs 25:21)

C. By giving them a blessing

D. By giving them prayer

“Jesus said, ‘Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.” (Luke 23:34)

E. By not seeking retaliation

“Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.” (1 Thessalonians 5:15)

F. By being generous

G. By treating them as you would like to be treated

III. What will be the results?

A. We will be rewarded by God

“You know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does.” (Ephesians 6:8)

B. We will show evidence that we are children of God

C. We will love as God loves us

“Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”
(Ephesians 5:2)

D. We will see the love of God at work