

SESSION 22

WHAT PAGANS CANNOT DO

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers,[i] what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:43)

I. LOVE YOUR ENEMY

- A. The indicatives of the Gospel: what God has done, is doing, and will do
- B. The imperatives of the Gospel: so, therefore...
 - 1. Ex: If you give generously, you will be greatly rewarded in eternity
 - 2. Jesus is not manipulative
- C. When you love your enemies, it keeps you free (Galatians 5:3)
- D. Hate is all the opposites of love described in 1 Corinthians 13
- E. Walking in impatience, unkindness, arrogance, etc. are seeds of murder in your heart (Matthew 5)
 - 1. The weapon of Satan in the garden was seduction and deceit
 - 2. Hate doesn't always look villainous, it's little whispers in the heart
- F. Your Father loves His enemies
- G. Love the Lord your God, love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22)
- H. Love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13)
- I. Jesus' intercession has transformed His enemies (us) into His friends (John 16)
 - 1. You were dead in your sin, but God
- J. There is a difference between being good and being godly
- K. Stephen is being stoned as he's preaching the gospel, loving his enemies (Acts 7)

II. DO NOT BE DECEIVED

- A. Do not be deceived, you must hear then do (James 1)
- B. If you hear the word and don't obey, you're like the man who builds a house on sand (Matthew 7)



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III. GODLY CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- A. If you are in the church service and remember that someone has something against you, leave and go seek reconciliation first ([Matthew 5](#))
- B. If you have something against your brother, go to him ([Matthew 18](#))
- C. If you see someone in the family walking in sin, go to them
- D. There are different avenues for resolution
 - 1. If you go to them and they hear you, you have won your brother ([v. 15](#))
- E. Every time you have one of these difficult conversations, you are tilling the soil and sowing the seed that bears the fruit of the Spirit
- F. Walk in the way of the wisdom from above
- G. Start by sitting with your Father, bring in others if it doesn't go well ([v. 16-17](#))