

## ***The Strait and Narrow Way***

Matt. 7:13-14



***"love your enemies"***

**--Jesus**

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Matthew 5:38-48

**Love for others**

No greater challenge as a  
disciple of Christ.

What does **love** mean?

*“love your enemies”*

--Jesus

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4 Greek words for *love*:

*storge* = family love

*eros* = lustful, physical, sexual

*philia* = warm, tender affection

*agape* = active good will

*“love your enemies”*

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If we regard a person with *agape*, it means that no matter what that person does to us, no matter how he treats us, no matter if he insults us or injures us or grieves us, we will never allow any bitterness against him to invade our hearts, but we will regard him with that unconquerable benevolence and goodwill which will seek nothing but his highest good.

William Barclay

***“love your enemies”***

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So then, what does ***love your enemies*** mean?

***Agape*** is an act of the will.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a  
**not** “if” or “because” love  
 but “anyway” love

***“love your enemies”***

**--Jesus**

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*“the power to love those whom we  
 do not like and who do not like us”*  
 unknown

*“The true test of love is not how we  
 treat the innocent, but how we  
 treat the guilty.”*  
 unknown

***“love your enemies”***

**--Jesus**

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Jesus did not mean to ***love your enemies*** like you love your family or closest friends.

We must make up our minds (hearts) ***NOT*** to punish or take revenge - but do all we can to seek goodwill toward them.  
Rom 12:17-21

***“love your enemies”***

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Paul taught that ***love*** is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22).

Fruit is that part of a plant that contains the seed, the useful part of plants, to produce more fruit.

Therefore, to ***love your enemies***, plants God's Seed to produce more fruit.

***“love your enemies”***

**--Jesus**

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How the Jews were to treat others  
(Lev 24:16-22; Lev 19:17-18, 34)

To conclude that God said “*hate your enemy*” was a major error by the Jews.  
(Example – Jonah; cf. Luk 10:29)

As disciples we **MUST** do better than  
the Jews did (Mat 5:20).

***“love your enemies”***

**--Jesus**

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Do we have enemies?

Jesus says **“when”** not **“if”** (Mat 5:11).

Paul also said we **“will”** have enemies  
(2 Timothy 3:12).

***“love your enemies”***

**--Jesus**

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Is loving our enemies even possible?

I John 4:8-11, 19-21

**Much easier to love those that love us.**

Can I do more than just pray for my enemies (Luk 6:35; Mat 5:44-47)?

**Work toward their eternal good!!**

***“love your enemies”***

**--Jesus**

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We must become ***“perfect”*** like our Father (Mat 5:45; Luk 6:35; Joh 3:16).

And follow the example of Jesus (I Pet 2:21-23).

The result of God’s love is life – to love others is that they might have life.

***“love your enemies”***

**--Jesus**

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*“The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people.” G.K. Chesterton*

Jesus said, ***“go and do the same”***  
(Luk 10:37).

## Obeying the Gospel

Hear the gospel (Romans 10:17)

Believe (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6)

Repent (Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

Confess (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

***“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”***

Be baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

Live faithfully (Hebrews 10:36)