

# LOVING OUR ENEMIES

## *Matthew 5:38-48*

"Sanctify them  
by the Truth.  
Your Word is Truth"

### I. Introduction

- II. Several examples of how to respond when someone is attempting to take advantage of us personally. 38-42
  - A. Jesus gives us an overriding principle. 38-39a
    - 1. Jesus isn't stripping governments of their right to wage war and defend their citizens.
  
    - 2. Jesus isn't stripping people of their right to self-defense.
  
    - 3. Jesus is not suggesting we become doormats in personal relationships.
  
    - 4. As Christians other people, not our own rights, should be our top priority.
  
    - 5. As Christians there's something more important than our rights - it's people.
  - B. Jesus gives us some very challenging commandments. 39b-42
    - 1. Our right to dignity. 39b

2. Our right to possessions. 40

3. Our right to convenience. 41

4. Our right to money. 42

III. Jesus gives us guidance on the best way to turn an enemy into a friend. 43-48

A. Jesus tells us to love our enemies. 43-44

B. There are four Greek words that get translated by our one English word "love."

C. Jesus doesn't ask us to LIKE our enemy, but Jesus does ask us to LOVE our enemy.

D. One significant way we become like Jesus is when we love our enemies. 45

E. The real commendable love is the love that loves enemies. 46-48

IV. Conclusion