

Luke 6:35

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

Love your enemies.

“Ok Jesus, I’ll do it because You tell me to, but just know I don’t like this part of being a Christian. You know You don’t make this Christian stuff very easy sometimes. But when I do, remember me and give me a few extra brownie points in heaven for doing it.”

Isn’t that our attitudes sometimes when we are told to do something we don’t want to do? Sure, you may be nice to most of those who are not nice back to you, but then there’s that one person that you can’t stand and they can’t stand you either. We think that Jesus wouldn’t want me to really love someone like that.

Hmm, in Jesus’ statement of ***love your enemies***, I don’t read the word “except” anywhere in Jesus’ teaching.

So why does Jesus tell us to ***love your enemies***?

Jesus doesn’t tell us to love our enemies because we are better than they are, but rather because we are no better than they are. When we get an attitude like this, we are in a sense saying that we are better than them.

✠ **1 Corinthians 4:1** *Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.*

Just because we are servants of Christ, it doesn’t make us any better than someone who’s not. We are still just as much sinners as they are, the only difference is that we have Jesus who has cleansed us of our sins, and has taken our sins away. Sure, we have changed and have put off some of our old sins and sinful lifestyle, but are you now walking around thinking you are holier than thou, or at least holier than that guy or girl that gets on your nerves and you consider an enemy?

✠ **Romans 3:9** *What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.*

We all know this next verse: ***Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Philippians 2:3***

And we usually think that way towards our brothers and sisters in Christ. But do we think that way towards the non-believer, or even more so than that non-believer who is our enemy?

Do you think that Jesus died for everyone but that one person?

† **2 Corinthians 5:15** *and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.*

That includes your enemy, so maybe instead of hating them, you should pray for them.

† **Psalm 58:6** *Break their teeth in their mouth, O God! Break out the fangs of the young lions, O LORD!*

No, I don't mean to pray that, but rather, in your prayers *love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return.*

You never know, your greatest enemy may be saved and become your greatest friend.

† **Mark 10:27** *But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."*