

ACTIVE LOVE



You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

MATTHEW 5:43



You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

LEVITICUS 19:17-18



...that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 20:18



Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the Lord your God is driving them out from before you...

DEUTERONOMY 9:5



...for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

ROMANS 13:4



They took this judicial principle and put it into operation in their ordinary affairs and in their daily lives. They regarded this as a justification for hating their enemies, hating anybody they disliked, or anybody who was offensive to them. Thus, they deliberately destroyed the principle of God's law, which is this great principle of love.

D. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES



But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 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.

MATTHEW 5:44-45



Common grace is every favor, falling short of salvation, which this undeserving and sin-cursed world enjoys at the hand of God. This includes the delay of wrath, the mitigation of our sin-natures, natural events that lead to prosperity, and all gifts that humans use and enjoy naturally.

SAM STORMS



The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

PSALM 65:12-13



For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

MATTHEW 5:46-47



You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

MATTHEW 5:48





Jesus prayed for his tormentors while the iron spikes were being driven through his hands and feet. He kept praying, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." If the cruel torture of crucifixion could not silence our Lord's prayer for his enemies, what pain, pride, prejudice, or sloth could justify the silencing of ours?

JOHN STOTT

