

Love your Enemies

Jesus Christ gave his followers a command to love our enemies. This seems like a very strange and impossible order. I personally have puzzled over this teaching for years, and I am fully persuaded that Christ was telling us, what is required of us, yet I never truly understood the reasoning behind this philosophy of life until recently. Most of the times we humans are able to avoid our enemies, and maybe even deceive ourselves into believing that we do have love for them that is sufficient to fulfill the command of Christ. We can pray for them, asking God to correct them, and bring them to repentance of their sins; and avoid them and feel that we have fulfilled our duty of love to them. In this article I plan to examine this command of Christ and explain the reasoning behind, why we must love our enemies, and also discuss what is necessary for us to be able to truly fulfill this command.

Let us begin by reading what Christ said in Matthew chapter five, and beginning in verse forty three: “You have heard that it has been said, you shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy; But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that you may be the children of your father which is in heaven”. How is it possible for a person to love someone who does things to harm you and those that you love? How is it possible to love someone that has hurt you very, very badly?

Human beings are selfish by nature, for all people on earth are influenced by their carnal, fleshly desires and their five fleshly senses of, seeing, feeling, taste, hearing, smelling. People are born selfish and not concerned for the welfare, needs and desires of another, but their nervous system and brain works together with every body part that they have, and its particular needs and desires so that

they all work together in unity to care for one another, because they are all unified by the common brain and mind. Therefore we humans love ourselves, whether we do it according to knowledge and wisdom or not. The problem is that it is not as easy to love someone else as much as we do ourselves. I have seen closest of friends divided by a lust for a girl, or a guy. Satan the devil is constantly broadcasting to our unsuspecting human minds in attitudes of lust, greed, vanity, and selfishness. (Ephesians 2: 2- 3) The broadcasting of Satan is just as real as the radio, and TV waves that are sent out everywhere, all across this earth; only to receive radio waves one must have a radio. To receive Satan's evil broadcast, all one must do is to have a natural human mind. That is how Satan rules this world today. The natural human mind is already tuned to Satan's wave link.

However, it is possible for a person to have some degree of love for another person, especially if it is a person that appears to care about them also. As long as no strong lust causes division between them, they may continue as friends for a life time. In this evil, ungodly age that we live in, people are more selfish now than ever; most marriages today end in divorce as a result of one or both of them following their ungodly lust and committing adultery. Husbands, wives, friends, business partners, neighbors, and even brethren may think they love each other, until some selfish lust divides them. That should not be the case, but that is the way people live, in this evil generation. We are learning that we can't truly trust anyone; where there is a motive, people will do each other wrong, while pursuing their own selfish pleasures and desires.

Even though we live in such a selfish and ungodly world, many people still feel that they love certain other people. Most often the people direct their love to someone who they feel treats them with love also, or someone whom has not done them any harm in any way that they are aware of, or of course to their own children. To have a good understanding about love you should read my article, titled "Just What Do You Mean Love"; it is also posted on the internet. To love your enemies, as Christ commanded is completely contrary to human nature. Jesus taught that we should go above and beyond the love that carnal minded people of this world have. He said that even the despised publicans (tax collectors) show a degree of love one for another, by saluting one another. He

tells us true Christians that we are to become perfect, even as our Father in heaven is perfect, by learning to love even our enemies. (Read Matthew 5: 43-48)

First of all I suppose that we need to understand why Jesus expects us to love our enemies. Why not just destroy our enemies? To understand this, we must also first understand what the purpose is that God has us humans on this earth for anyway.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR HUMAN EXISTANCE?

There is a real purpose for human existence! Most of mankind doesn't know what that awesome purpose is, because they refuse to be corrected by the word of God. Human nature lusts against keeping, and obeying the Commandments of God. The sad part is that man rejects the Commandments of God, even though they were given to us by a loving, caring God for our own benefit, and for our good. Man will never be able to truly understand and really know his true God given purpose unless he is willing to acknowledge Gods supremacy and start obeying God's commands.

This worlds false Christianity doesn't know of mans real purpose, they also reject the commandments of God. The so called Christian churches of this world refuse to acknowledge that Christians are commanded to live in obedience to the Ten Commandments, because they refuse to keep the seventh day Sabbath Holy as God commands in the fourth commandment. In other words the false religions that call themselves Christian refuse also to be corrected by the Word of God! Satan the Devil has deceived this entire world into thinking that the way to happiness is in fulfilling your own lusts. People think that all they need to have a happy good life is the freedom and power to do as they please. There is short term pleasure for ignorant people in living that way, but in reality; all of our troubles, sorrows, heartaches, suffering, and strife, and division are a direct result of living in disobedience to our creator, and following our own human lusts. God tells us to love our enemies, but eventually God will destroy his enemies. God still has a purpose for our enemies and still hopes for them that they will repent and

let him change them into his friends, but make no mistake about it, eventually the wicked who refuse to be corrected will be destroyed!

I can briefly tell you here, what God's purpose for man is, but to have a good understanding of this you should read Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's book, "The Incredible Human Potential". The books that Mr. Armstrong wrote have simply put together the many truths scattered throughout the pages of the Holy Bible, and expounds them to us so that we may truly grasp the truth on these vital subjects. The Horn or Organization of the Church that God used Mr. Armstrong to raise up has rejected the truth since his death, and you can't get his literature from them anymore, but you may be able to get his books from the next "horn" or era of the church who call themselves "The Philadelphia Church of God". They are in Edmond Oklahoma, and can be found on the internet. Anything that Mr. Armstrong wrote which they still publish is safe to read, but beware of some of their own false teaching, especially that man Flurry exalting himself, and seeking to have the people look to him as some great one. They are the Laodicean Church spoken of in the book of Revelation, chapter three. If it were not for them continuing to publish Mr. Armstrong's literature, I believe that organization would not even be lukewarm. They also have cast out many of us true and faithful Christians, who still love God and his Word, and won't follow men who seek their own glory. We are the ones who follow the Lamb where ever he goes, as it says in Revelation chapter fourteen.

I can very briefly explain in this article what the purpose for human existence is, but unless God is acting on your mind to cause you to believe it, then you will not have the faith to surrender your life over to God in complete obedience. Unless you are obeying God and keeping his Commandments, then your understanding of the word of God will be very limited.

Almighty God the creator of all things in heaven and earth has always lived. He has perfect Holy Righteous character; he is the Great Spirit being who inhabits eternity of both time and space. All of Gods actions are solidly based on his way of living, which is the way of unselfish giving, and expressing in deed his love for his creation. Whatever God does, he does it right, so that he gets good end

results. That is the way to know if a thing or action is good or evil; you must be able to see what the end results of it will be like. If a thing is good it will bring good and lasting results. If it is evil, it will bring about undesirable end results, even though it may offer short term pleasure. That is one good reason why it is so important for us humans to trust in the wisdom and understanding of our aged Father in heaven; for he knows the end from the beginning. He knows what will work, and what will not work. Humans tend to look at things short term and not consider the end results of our actions carefully. That is why God gave us the Ten Commandments; those commandments are living laws that will enact a severe penalty in our lives if we disobey them; but will bless us with good results in our relationships if we keep them. The overall goal of the law is; that we all being many, may dwell together in peace and unity without strife and contention, which leads to division and destruction of the relationships.

This all wise loving, creator God was alone, like he made Adam to be at first; but he desired to have a wife through whom he could reproduce himself and bring into being, many sons of God who are like himself. To be like God, we also must develop the same Holy Righteous Character in ourselves that God has in his self. Adam had all of the animals with him that God had created, but they were not like Adam. God caused Adam to notice that while he was giving names to all of the animals, that not one of them would be suitable as a mate for himself. Adam needed a wife like himself, with a human mind and understanding so that he could be joined with her in a spiritual and mental relationship as well as someone whom he could have children with. This was all created in the image of what God was doing in himself. God desired a wife and children who were like him in mind and character, so that he could actually bond with them in a spiritual and mental way.

God is wise enough to know that for his family to be like him, they must have the same Holy Righteous Character that he has. That is the only way that there could be peace, harmony, and lasting happiness among them. Holy righteous character is not something that God could just create instantly by himself. What is Holy Righteous Character? Holy Righteous Character is the ability and will of an individual to come to the knowledge of what is right as opposed to what is wrong,

and then the ability to discipline one's mind and body to do the right even when being tempted to do the wrong, and refusing to yield in to temptations. Animals obey Gods purpose for their lives because they have a spirit of instinct created in them that causes them to do according to their intended function; but the animal doesn't even know or question why he does as he does. Animals didn't choose for themselves to live as they do, based on wisdom and experience; they merely do what they are programmed to do. God desired a wife who has a separate mind, and yet still chooses to be Holy, just, Righteous, and loving the way that God is. God desires a loving family relationship with others who is of the God kind. You can have a relationship with an animal, but it is not as complete and satisfying as a relationship with a mate who is like you, and has a individual mind, yet chooses to live in harmony and agreement with you, and chooses to be faithful, and loyal to you, even though they had mind to do otherwise if they had so desired.

Again, God is reproducing himself. God knew by his wisdom that for him to be able to have a wife and children like himself, that he must give us a mind that is very much like the mind of God, where we have ability to choose for our self how we will live. God also knew that he must allow his people to have a space of time to rebel against their creator and his righteous laws in order that they may come to learn by experience that their selfish, lustful, rebellious ways would only produce sorrow, heartache, misery, pain, division, and ultimately total destruction of all fleshly life off the face of the earth if Christ doesn't come back and stop it at the last minute. This space of time for the world has been set at six thousand years, typical of the six days of the week in which man was told to work; and the Sabbath is typical of the thousand year period in which Satan will be bound and the evil works will cease while Christ and his faithful saints rule this earth with a rod of iron, and cause peace and real happiness to flourish when people are living according to the laws of God, and have the Holy Spirit in them.

When an individual has learned, and experienced that his way and this whole worlds way under Satan's influence is only evil; then if he will repent in his mind and heart of his rebellion against the Most High God; then God will start the process of redeeming him by forgiving him for his sins and giving him a small

portion of the very Spirit of God to dwell in him and lead his mind into understanding, and the wisdom of God and his Commandments. As the individual yields to God and resist the lusts of his flesh, and the pulls of society in this evil world; then he will be developing that same Holy Righteous Character that God has in him. As the man grows, and yields to the Holy Spirit, then God will give him more of his Spirit, and more understanding of what he needs to change in his life to be like God. This is a lifelong process, of growing in the knowledge and Character of God until we are finally able to be born as a very Son of God at the First resurrection. We go through many trials along the way, but Character is not developed very well when we are at ease and everything is pleasant. It is like body building; greater strength is developed when the workout is strenuous. God knows what we are able to bear, and will not put on us more than we can overcome if we are willing and desire what God has in store for us. We must keep our minds on the overall goal of life that our Loving God has set for us. This is why we must believe the Gospel in order to be saved. If we don't believe this Good News about Gods purpose for our redemption from our sinful state of being, and the transformation of us into Holy Righteous Sons of God, then we will not have the motivation to struggle against our own carnal nature, and the nature of this evil world that Satan is presently ruling over. If you do really believe this Gospel and you really do love it; then you won't let anything stop you; you will have this fixed firmly in your mind and heart so that it is not just Gods goal for you but it is also your own personal ambition.

My friends understand this also; God has not been calling everyone to the knowledge of the truth in their first lifetime. God has a master plan to call all people to the truth eventually, but in this age only the first fruits who are destined to be members of the wife of the Glorified Christ at his second coming have been called. Many have been called, but few will be chosen, because not all had enough respect for the truth, and they focused on this world and the things of this world. Their hearts were never truly deeply converted to deeply know and love God more than anything else. They let the cares of this present evil world choke out the life from them. What a sad shame that is. Most people who ever lived on this earth have not yet had their opportunity at salvation, but they will

when they are either called at the end of this world out of great tribulation to live and be judged during the millennium, that Christ and his saints will rule over, or else the dead will rise in a judgment period at the end of the millennium in a time known as the Great white throne judgment. Eventually all people who have ever lived will be given an opportunity to actually know God and his plan for their lives. They will all be given space of time to grow and develop the Holy Righteous Character of God, and be born again as the very Spirit born Children of God. Only those who reject the truth and correction of God after their minds have been illuminated with the truth will be destroyed completely and forever in the lake of fire. I think many will treasure this truth when they have experienced the end results of their way of living, and then been offered this precious hope. For more proof of this subject; read, and study my booklet, "THE REAL PURPOSE FOR HUMAN EXISTANCE".

Why love your enemies?

Now that you have been given a very brief description of what God has planned for the real purpose of human lives; it will be easier for you to understand why God requires that we love our enemies. God does not expect us to love the wicked deeds and bad character of our enemies; God hates sin and sinful character, and so should we. Understand this awesome truth; not all sinners and wicked people are permanently set in their sinful state of mind and character. God has made us humans of flesh so that we can change if we come to honestly see that we are wrong and repent of our evil way of living.

God has sentenced Adam and all of his children to six thousand years of being cut off from access to the Holy Spirit which would have led them into obedience to God and his right way of life; the way of outgoing love, first to God, and then to fellow man. Man was sentenced to experience his own ways that are contrary to the righteousness of God, since Adam had chose to reject the instruction of his creator in the Garden of Eden. The majority of mankind has never yet had an opportunity to really know God or to have God give them his Holy Spirit; their

lives have been spent simply proving their own way that it only produces bad end results. Man has now for nearly six thousand years been proving to their own selves through blood, sweat, tears, pain, heartache, and destruction that mans way is only evil, and produces bad end results.

At the time God sentenced man to experience the sorrows of the way that they have chose to live; God determined that after man had learned his lesson, and if he repents of his rebellion against God and his laws, then God would give them a chance to be redeemed from his sinful ways if they were willing. When people repent and are baptized, God will give them a small portion of his Holy Spirit which will lead them to start obeying God, and start the process of developing Holy Righteous Character in them. If an individual continues in the truth and continues to surrender to God and Christ, God will give them more of his Holy Spirit and they will continue to grow until they are completely clean and holy as God is Holy. Eventually they will be born again as the Spirit born children of God!

During this six thousand years God had purposed to call out certain individuals which he has predestined to be called to be the first fruits harvest of the sons of God. These individuals are brought to repentance and conversion early before the majority of mankind will have their chance at salvation. God has a plan for them to be Christ's helpers and collectively the wife of the Glorified Christ, to be resurrected or changed into Spirit beings at Christ's second coming. We shall help Christ rule and teach the people of the world during the millennial Sabbath day. We shall be kings and priest, and Christ shall be King of us Kings, and Lord of us Lords. Only those few will be in the first resurrection, but the majority of mankind is not yet permanently lost either. They have simply not yet been given their calling. They will be called to know the true God and Christ in Gods own time order. Most will not be called until God calls them to come out of their graves and live again as physical humans again after the Millennial Sabbath is over. This time when they live they will have the experience of the ways of sin and what its results were, and then they will be given the knowledge of God and offered the Holy Spirit if they are willing to surrender to obey God. They will be able to make an educated decision then, having known Evil, and now the Goodness of God. Hopefully many will choose the way of God and his laws then,

and let God help them also develop Holy Righteous Character in themselves, so that they also may be born of God and have eternal life.

You see God doesn't condemn the wicked to eternal death in the lake of fire just because they are not yet converted. God in his mercy is planning to redeem all who will repent and respect the true way of God, after their minds are opened to know God and his word. God's purpose is not to destroy the wicked, but to bring them to repentance when he calls them, and change his enemies into his friends. That is the love of our Great Creator God!

Likewise also if we are becoming the Children of God, we must learn to have that same compassion on our enemies. We hate their deeds and the way they treat us, but we love them because they are an ignorant deceived people who may yet repent and become Children of God in the future. Consider the Apostle Paul, he was a very great enemy of the Church of God until God struck him down and called him to know the true God. If we continue to bear a grudge against the people that God still loves and hopes for, could we be like God, as the children of God? No, we must learn to look at things from God's perspective, and overlook their sins against us and God, and pray that they may be able to repent when God calls them. Consider this; we Christians were also enemies of God and our fellow humans before our calling and conversion. God would have been justified if he had just destroyed us, but he was and is more merciful than that. God loved us while we were yet great sinners against God and man enough to let his Holy Son Jesus be beaten and killed to pay for our sins, and to call us to repentance and start the process of redeeming us from our sinful state of being, so that we may be trusted with eternal life. We can't be the children of God unless we are like God. Hate the sin and sinful character, but forgive and pray for the enemies that they may someday come to repentance when God calls them to judgment. Hope for the enemy that he or she may someday be of clean and Holy Character.

Consider this: Could the family of God ever live in true peace and harmony with one another in the Kingdom of God if we continued to bear a grudge against one another because of their evil deeds that they have done against us while they were still sinners? No, we must learn to forgive and love even our enemies, to be

the children of God. To love only those that love us is a rather selfish way of living. If God were that selfish, none of us would ever have had a chance to be converted and saved. God's love is not selfish the way human love is. This is probably one of the final developments of us into the complete children of God. That is to learn to love the way God does, completely unselfish.

Have you ever considered that it would be impossible for God to reproduce himself and have a wife and children if he could not completely forgive us of our sins when we repent? We who are now converted and begotten children of God, and are growing to the point of birth into the kingdom and family of God have also done great evils against God and man; and except for God's great desire to have a wife and children of his own kind, we would all have to suffer the wages of sin which is eternal death! It takes a merciful and forgiving God to even be able to reproduce himself. Like Jesus said, love your enemies, and do good for those that do evil against you. Pray for their good, that they may also repent when God calls them, and that they may come to know the goodness of our Father and Christ in heaven. Pray for them that they may someday come to be your friends and brethren. Being able by the Spirit of God to love your enemies is the highest form of love, and it is not natural to humans; it only comes from God.

I hope that this booklet will help all people to comprehend the Great love of our God, and his mercy to us. I also hope that you will be able to fulfill the commandment of Christ in loving your enemies.

A true friend and witness of God and Christ,

Gary Stowers