

Mount Vernon church of Christ
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Loving Those Who Do Not Love You

Some of what the Bible expects of us is seemingly impossible at first. A concept that is among the most challenging of God's commands is "love your enemies" (Matthew 5:44). One of the reasons that makes this expectation so difficult is that there is a much smaller chance of that love being reciprocated. When we treat an individual with an act of love, most of the time it is towards someone who we already know will love us back. How could God expect something of us that is so strongly the antithesis of our normal tendencies?

When we consider the bigger picture of God's command, do we realize that we were once God's enemies? We understand that sin separated us from God (Isaiah 59:2), and that sin caused us to be working as children of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2). When we chose to sin, we were literally persecuting His cause and everything that God has planned for His creation. Even though this involves all who are at an age to know right from wrong (Romans 3:23), and we were God's enemy deserving nothing but spiritual death (Romans 6:23), God still loved us and gave us His Son (John 3:16). God sacrificed the most valuable gift in existence to His enemies.

God sacrificed His Son so that we would have the opportunity to change and become more like Him, thus causing Him to love a people who did not love Him. There were no guarantees that we would chose to love Him back. We need to recognize that the task of becoming more like God cannot be accomplished if we do not love our enemies. This does not mean we feel all warm and fuzzy towards them, or that we even "like" them, but we still do what is best for their soul. Let us all learn to love our enemies as sons and daughters of the one and true living God.

In Love,
Sage