

*Is "Love Your Enemies"
the Heart of the Bible's
Message*

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This is probably the most misunderstood teaching of God's Book. It is used (wrongly) to teach pacifism, universalism, conscientious objection, sloppy sentimentalism, church union, quietism, etc.

It is the fundamental doctrine of humanistic liberal unbelief.

Has the church made a mistake in putting Matthew at the beginning of the New Testament?

The Sermon on the mount (Matt. chapters 5 — 7) is the main source of this teaching, but **how** is the Sermon to be interpreted? God knows how to speak to the situation (do we?). This sermon was given to captive peoples of a conquering nation. It meant being realistic, bowing to the inevitable, and making the most of it.

Are we in that specific situation **today**?

"Love your enemies" is **not** found in the book of Acts (which contains the essential message of Jesus). It is **not** found in the letters of Peter and Paul, **nor** in John's gospel. According to A.W. Pink, John 3:16 has at least 6 different interpretations.

It is **not** found in the book of Revelation, either.

In Galatians chapter 1 Paul places a solemn curse on the enemies of the true gospel.

Jesus speaks **armour-piercing words** (in love?) to His enemies in Matt. 23. In Matt. 25 we see God's burning anger against His enemies.

Both Peter and Paul, being filled with the Spirit (of love?), **blasted** their opposition. (See Acts 8 and 13).

In the Psalms (the Protestant's prayer book) God speaks of praying against your enemies.

A woman shop assistant at a Christian bookshop was horrified when I once asked her did the shop keep a book on **praying** against your enemies. (See also Neh. chapter 4).

Psalms 136 is particularly relevant to this question. It shows God's covenant love dealing with the enemies of God's people. How? By **slaughtering** them! (God used His people's armed forces).

Love your enemies does **not** mean sickly sweet soft sentimentalism or pacifism.

Who was Jesus praying for when He spoke from the cross: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." Was He praying for the **soldiers** blindly obeying orders out of devotion to duty? Was it they who were committing the sin of **ignorance**? We have the **whole** Bible, should we be **bogged down** in one chapter of one gospel?