

The Way of the Kingdom | Randy Watson - 11/3/24

## *The Right Way to Deal with Enemies*

Matthew 5:43-48

- Love your enemies - <sup>44</sup> But I say, *love* your enemies!
- Pray for them - *Pray* for those who persecute you! v44
- Do an 'act of kindness' for them - Matthew 5:45-47

Proverbs 25:21-22 / Romans 12:14 / Romans 12:21

Is ANY of this easy? NO! Here is the standard: Matthew 5:48

<sup>48</sup> *But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

To be *perfect* is **impossible** without God's help.

**Galatians 5:16** (NIV) <sup>16</sup> *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

**The Spirit of God enables us to Live the Way of the Kingdom -**

*Living Perfect in the Spirit is our Goal*

The Greek word for *perfect* = *teleios* = **complete** ...

In Christ to mature is to develop into the *best me* possible.

**Father fill me with Your perfect love  
and help me to love my enemies like You do**

**Next Week:** Colton Foster Oaths and Integrity Matt.5:33-37

## TALK IT OVER

*Discuss these questions with someone – maybe a family member, friend, or member of your LifeGroup. Use a communication method that works best for your situation.*

1. Do you have anyone in your life who always seems to frustrate you or stress you out? What could you do to love them?
2. Read Proverbs 25:21, Romans 12:14, and Romans 12:21. How does the Bible say we should treat our enemies?
3. Think of one of your own attitudes or actions that can frustrate people. What is the reason behind why you have that attitude or do that action?
4. “*If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility.*” -Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Think of someone else that has an attitude or action that frustrates you. What in their past could have happened to them or what reason could they have that is the origin of what frustrates you?
5. What can you do to understand and empathize with your enemies better?

Do: Love Your Enemy by Pete Briscoe | 5-day YouVersion Plan

**November Memory Verse:** <sup>44</sup>But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **Matthew 5:44**