





COMMUNITY GUIDE

August 4th, 2024

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: Christian love is often counter-cultural and distinguishes believers from the world.

HEAD CHANGE: Loving enemies is about actions and attitudes, not feelings.

HEART CHANGE: Loving enemies is only possible through dependence on Christ.

LIFE CHANGE: Loving enemies is a process that begins with willingness and small steps.

OVERVIEW

We explored Jesus' challenging command to love our enemies, emphasizing that this radical love is a distinguishing mark of Christ's followers. Dr Tammy Smith explained that loving enemies is not about feelings but about actions and attitudes, rooted in God's grace and enabled by His Spirit. The message encourages us to break cultural norms by actively blessing those who hurt them and praying for those who persecute them, highlighting that this kind of love can only come through dependency on Christ.

"Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Romans 12:19

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What role does the Holy Spirit play in enabling us to love our enemies and produce the fruit of the Spirit?
2. How can recognizing our "true enemy" as spiritual forces rather than people change our approach to conflict and relationships?
3. In what ways does God's grace being for all impact our ability to love our enemies?
4. How does Jesus' command to 'love your enemies' challenge our natural instincts and cultural norms?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Lord, thank you for your radical love that extends even to those who oppose you. Help us to depend on you as we strive to love our enemies. Give us the strength and courage to bless those who curse us and to pray for those who mistreat us. Transform our hearts to be more like yours, full of grace and compassion for all. Amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!