

SERIOUSLY? LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Two Natural Reactions and a Third Response:

_____ or _____...or _____

God's Love:

Love does not _____.

It seeks the _____ of the _____.

Four Reasons to Love Our Enemies:

1) Because that is what _____ is _____.

We are *all* _____ in the _____.

2) Our _____ aren't necessarily _____.

3) God wants his enemies _____,
not _____.

4) Because that is what _____.

Jesus is not an _____,
he is the _____.

Questions for Further Study

For the week of May 1st, 2011

1. How do you feel about turning the other cheek? When have you done this to an antagonist? When has someone done this in response to your “antagonism”?

2. Read Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18 to discover some ways the Lord says to love our neighbor. Is this an easy thing to do? Have you tried it? Will you try again? If we all “loved our neighbors as ourselves” do you think there would be wars, prisons, hunger and poverty?

3. Read Psalm 103:1-18. This week Pastor Tim talked about how we are asked by Jesus to love the unlovable in our lives. How does the Psalm inspire us to do this?

Pastor Tim also said that our job is to be imitators of Jesus. The Psalm says that the Lord “crowns” us with kindness and compassion. How does this enable us to imitate Jesus?

4. Now read 1 Corinthians 3:16-23. Paul says that “the Spirit of God dwells in you.” At what times in your life do you remember this? When you have important decisions to make? When good things happen? Not very often? What changes do you need to make regarding this issue?

What does Paul say makes us holy? How can this help us when someone tries to “destroy” us? If you understand that this same thing makes your neighbor or your enemy holy, as well, how might it impact how you treat the people in your life?

5. This week be intentional every day to pray for the welfare and well-being of someone who is persecuting you. See if there’s a difference in your feelings or in your actual relationship by the end of the week.

SERIOUSLY? LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Two Natural Reactions and a Third Response:

Fight _____ or Flight _____ ...or Love _____

God's Love:

Love does not retaliate _____.

It seeks the welfare _____ of the other _____ person _____.

Four Reasons to Love Our Enemies:

1) Because that is what God _____ is like _____.

We are *all* made _____ in the image of God _____.

2) Our enemies _____ aren't necessarily God's _____.

3) God wants his enemies won _____ over _____, not wiped _____ out _____.

4) Because that is what Jesus _____ did _____.

Jesus is not an impractical _____ idealist _____, he is the practical _____ realist _____.

- *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*