

But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:44-45a NLT

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“Love Your Enemies”—Theory or Practice?

By Dr. Gayle Woods

The Cayman Islands’ legislature recently debated whether same-sex couples have the right to enter a union similar to marriage. Dr. Gayle Woods, pastor in Cayman Brac, wrote some thoughts about how Christians should respond in love. Later, this Domestic Partnership Bill was defeated by one vote.



Kmanian345 / Wikipedia

While COVID-19 continues to rage around the world, a battle against Domestic Partnership becoming a legal reality in the Cayman Islands is being fought in our legislative chamber. At times it seems that we are

being attacked from all sides. We do not despair; instead we remind ourselves that God is on the throne. He reigns as the supreme ruler of the universes. Praise His name forever!

On Sundays I have been preaching through the book of Matthew as well as through 1 Thessalonians. God saw fit to prepare us for the legislative debate this week over Domestic Partnership by bringing us to Matthew 5:44-48.

This is a portion of Scripture that is difficult to swallow. To love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who spitefully use us and persecute us is not the humanly natural response.

We say we hate the sin and love the sinner, but I think that the sinner at times may have a different opinion regarding our actions and words. Jesus said the sinners can treat people they like well, but we

Working at Home

One of our families began a year of furlough, or home assignment, July 1. After concluding teaching his Asian classes by internet last school year, the husband is looking forward to teaching in person at KCC in Overland Park.

Their family is planning to attend a debriefing conference in October, which will help them as they decide their future work after this school year. Their monthly support continues at this time, depending on their decision for the future. Ask the Father to provide clarity and guidance.



A city in Asia



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Prayer Requests for Missionaries

Ask the Father to work out His timing for a family to return to their work in Europe. Their original target date of August has been delayed. Continue to pray for the new Christians and seeking hearts among the Roma people.

Larry and Christy Doyle continue traveling to raise support for their return to Papua New Guinea. Both Wycliffe and World Missions ask them to be completely funded before they return, and currently they have 58% of their support raised. They still need about \$3820 in monthly support to cover their ministry costs. Their earliest target date for returning, should these necessary funds be raised, is November. Please ask the Father to provide for this need at just the right time. We believe Bible translation is His work!

should be able to do better. We should have love for everyone. Why? Because God does.

Verse 48 says, "Therefore be perfect just like the Father is perfect." This verse is totally out of place unless it is understood in its context. Our Father in heaven has a perfect love for mankind. Jesus says it is not only possible for us to have a love for everyone just like that which is demonstrated by God, but He **expects** us to have this kind of love.

As I thought about this I was reminded of something Paul said. Romans 8:5-10 reads:

And hope maketh not ashamed; **because** the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly**. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth **his love toward us**, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us**. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when **we were enemies, we were reconciled** to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, **we shall be saved by his life**.

God, help us to remember that, just as God loved us when we were His enemies, we must love those who disagree with us, even when our blood boils in revulsion to the sin about us.

Pray for Bolivia



The country of Bolivia has been hit hard by COVID-19, including our churches there. At last report, we have lost 10 pastors and two pastor's wives; one of the pastors was Felix Romero Poma, who was also our National Board Secretary. Out of 205 churches, this means that almost 5% have seen this virus take one of their leaders. Please pray for our brothers and sisters who are fighting this illness and grieving those departed

Thank you for giving to World Missions. 5-10% of most donations are used for administrative costs.