

OVERCOMING HATE WITH JESUS' LOVE

MATTHEW 5:43-44 – ERIC SIMPSON – DECEMBER 17, 2017

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"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"

"If you will come to me, and trust in me, and receive the power of the kingdom, and be cleansed on the inside by the forgiveness and love of God that I offer, and bank your hope on all my promises, and let my ransoming death cover all your failures and imperfections, then you WILL be able to live this way (not perfectly, but powerfully), and your life will be the light of the world that proves you are the children of God." – John Piper

persecute = to pursue with harmful intention

enemy = anyone who turns against you

Matthew 10:36

Your enemies will be right in your own household!

When you're on the receiving end of "hate", you can...

1. **Respond with hate**
"Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that." – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
2. **Try to stuff it and move on**
resentment = frozen anger, hurt, betrayal
3. **Forgive and choose love**
Forgiveness breaks the power of anger.

What does "loving your enemies" look like?

- **Pray for them**
- **Greet them**
Being kind and courteous toward people who are not kind and courteous toward you.
- **Do good to them**

Luke 6: 27

"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you"

"Doing good to your enemies means seeing beyond your pain and their meanness to their humanity. It means seeing them as people made in the image of God and understanding there is something twisted inside that causes them to do what they do. Doing good means doing what will promote their healing despite the way they have treated you. You make the first move. You send the email. You pick up the phone. You make the contact. You bridge the gap." – Ray Pritchard