

## C & C: Love Your Enemies

Connections and Comparisons is an ongoing weekly series that deals with many scriptures in the Bible, some of which are not commonly addressed. The purpose of this series is to examine the scriptures at hand comparing what is said and looking at the connections within.

### Matthew 5:44

44 But I say unto you, **Love** your enemies, **bless** them that curse you, **do good** to them that hate you, and **pray for them** which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

It doesn't matter the color of your skin, the ethnic background, the religion you adhere to, your philosophy, your looks, your popularity, your social standing, your political views, your social views, or any other reason. You are to 1) Love your enemies 2) Bless them that curse you 3) Do good to them that hate you 4) Pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

**God in his loving kindness, grace, and mercy gives us the reasons why.**

### Matthew 5:45-48

45 **That ye may be the children of your Father** which is in heaven: **for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.**

46 For if ye love them which love you, **what reward have ye?** do not even the publicans **the same?**

47 And if ye salute your brethren only, **what do ye more than others?** do not even the publicans **so?**

48 **Be ye therefore perfect,** even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

God makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good. **He doesn't have to, but he has chosen to.** He sends his rain on the just and on the unjust. **He doesn't have to, but he has chosen to.** We are to be **Christ like** and to **walk even as he walked.** Jesus asked the questions, "**For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?**" **God expects more from his children. God expects us to love others even as he loved us.**

### John 3:16-18

16 **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; **but that the world through him might be saved.**

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but **he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

### Romans 5:6-11

6 For when we were yet without strength, **in due time Christ died for the ungodly.**

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10 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.

11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

God gave his only begotten Son to reconcile the sinner, which was all of mankind, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, that through his death, burial, and resurrection we could be saved by his life.

This free gift that God has given unto us applies to all of mankind. Irregardless of the color of your skin, the ethnic background, the religion you adhere to, your philosophy, your looks, your popularity, your social standing, your political views, your social views, or any other reason. You are to 1) Love your enemies 2) Bless them that curse you 3) Do good to them that hate you 4) Pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

### 1 Peter 2:20-25

20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

It's not easy when you are mocked to hold your peace. It's not easy when you are physically assaulted for doing good to not retaliate. However, this is what is acceptable with God.

### Luke 6:22-23

22 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

It's in the times that we are shamed, ridiculed, beat, persecuted, and taken advantage of that we are to rejoice. Not just when everything is going well. Leap for joy when you are hated for the name of Christ! Leap for joy when you are separated from for your faith in Christ! Leap

for joy when you are reproached for Christ's sake! **Your reward will be great in heaven!** This is the same manner in which Israel treated many of their prophets.

### Matthew 21:33-46

33 Hear another parable: There was a certain **householder**, which **planted a vineyard**, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, **and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country**:

34 And when **the time of the fruit drew near**, he sent **his servants** to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

35 And the husbandmen **took his servants**, and **beat one**, and **killed another**, and **stoned another**.

36 Again, he sent **other servants more than the first**: and **they did unto them likewise**.

37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, **saying**, **They will reverence my son**.

38 **But when the husbandmen saw the son**, they said among themselves, **This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance**.

39 And **they caught him**, and **cast him out** of the vineyard, and **slew him**.

40 **When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh**, **what will he do unto those husbandmen?**

41 They say unto him, **He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen**, **which shall render him** the fruits in their seasons.

42 Jesus saith unto them, **Did ye never read in the scriptures**, **The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner**: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

43 **Therefore say I unto you**, **The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof**.

44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone **shall be broken**: but on whomsoever it shall fall, **it will grind him to powder**.

45 And when the **chief priests and Pharisees** had heard his parables, **they perceived that he spake of them**.

46 **But when they sought to lay hands on him**, they feared the multitude, **because they took him for a prophet**.

**Let us be mindful of the goodness and severity of God!**

### Romans 11:21-27

21 For if God **spared not** the natural branches, **take heed** lest he also spare not thee.

22 Behold therefore **the goodness and severity of God**: on them which fell, **severity**; but toward thee, **goodness**, **if thou continue in his goodness**: **otherwise thou also shalt be cut off**.

23 And they also, **if they abide not still in unbelief**, **shall be grafted in**: for God is able to graff them in again.

24 For **if thou** wert cut out of the olive tree **which is wild** by nature, and wert grafted **contrary to nature** into a good olive tree: **how much more shall these**, which be **the natural branches**, **be grafted into their own olive tree?**

25 **For I would not**, brethren, **that ye should be ignorant of this mystery**, lest ye should be wise in **your own conceits**; **that blindness in part is happened to Israel**, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

**26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:**

**27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.**

If God **spared not** Israel and gave the kingdom of God **to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof**, let us **not be puffed up** or **boast** because we are told “**take heed** lest he also spare not thee” and “if thou continue in his goodness: **otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.**” “For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is **wild by nature**, and wert **grafted contrary to nature** into **a good olive tree**: how much more shall these, which be **the natural branches**, be **grafted into their own olive tree?**”

**We as the children of God must love our enemies!** “**But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**” (Rm 5:8)