

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴³ “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶ If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷ If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. ⁴⁸ But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

- God’s standard for Believers...**everyone** is your neighbor!

Proverbs 17:5

“Those who mock the poor insult their Maker; those who rejoice at the misfortune of others will be punished.” *NLT*

Proverbs 24:28-29

“Don't talk about your neighbors behind their backs— no slander or gossip, please. Don't say to anyone, "I'll get back at you for what you did to me. I'll make you pay for what you did!" *The Message*

Proverbs 25:21

If you see your enemy hungry, go buy him lunch; if he's thirsty, bring him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness, and GOD will look after you.” *The Message*

So what does Jesus say? How can we live a blessed & happy life?

- **Live in Love**
 - True love is need oriented...it’s always an action!
 - God’s love is never a who question – but rather a how to!
 - True love is always reflective!
- **Pray for those who *persecute* you**
 - Unbelievers will see..
 - Believers will be convicted...

John 3:35

“The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.” NIV

I John 4:16

“We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.”

I John 4:20

“If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?”

Self is the #1 cause of unhappiness in life!

“Self always means defiance of God; it always means that I put myself on the throne instead of God, and therefore it is always something that separates me from Him.”

Martin Lloyd-Jones