



# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 13 | 7:00PM

JOIN US as we update you on the progress of the building and our next steps!

## the JESUS MANIFESTO

## Love Your Enemy

Bob Cowie

February 4, 2018

### Matthew 5:43-48 NLT

*"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, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*

### Who would you view as an enemy in your life?

"These verses carry the core of Christian ethics up to anchor it in the character of God, for they teach that the Christian is to love others, not as a man loves his friends, but as God loves."

Pastor James Boice

### Leviticus 19:18 NASB

*You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.*

*You have heard "love with partiality" but I say to you "love impartially" so you can be sons of the Father; for the Father loves impartially. If you love with partiality, you are nothing special... even the wicked do that. Therefore, you are to love perfectly as the Father loves perfectly.*

### Romans 13:8 NASB

*Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.*

### Galatians 5:14 NASB

*For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*



FEBRUARY 18 - 3:00-5:00 pm

### James 2:8-9 NASB

*If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.*

### What would make someone your enemy?

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### Romans 12:14 NASB

*"Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse."*

### An enemy is anyone who...

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### Romans 5:8 NASB

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

When you choose love you are actually living out what it means to be an apprentice of Jesus Christ. You are making the kingdom of God available to them right now.

### Every person matters to God.

### John 13:35 NASB

*By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

### What is Jesus Up To?

1. Who has Jesus used in your life to show you his unconditional love?

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2. How did they demonstrate that love?

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### Practical Application:

**How is Jesus asking you to demonstrate his love this week?**

## Spiritual Practice: LOVE WHO??

Do you have a person that you would consider an enemy? Someone that is out to get you? They want to see you fail or cause you harm. There are some who immediately have a person come to mind, but for many it may be tougher to identify an actual enemy. What if we were to change the word enemy to competitor. Is there someone who comes to mind now: that person who you feel you are measured against in sports or in life? It could be a competing business, another parent, someone you work alongside or an actual competitor on the field of play.

Does our standard way of thinking fall in line with the thinking Jesus highlights in Matthew 5:43?

*"You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbour' and hate your enemy.*

Is that the desired response when our enemy comes to mind? That we can love those who are like us, but competitors or enemies aren't worthy of our love and are in fact people that we can hate.

Jesus proceeds to flip the script in Matthew 5:43-46 and calls those who desire to follow him to assume a posture that disarms the enemy or competitor not through a response of revenge or retribution. Instead we are to assume a position built on loving others.

When we are in a stable place (the Kingdom) with a solid identity (one in whom Christ dwells and delights) we can choose to respond to attack by not attacking back and in doing so we make the choice to love our enemies.

In terms of actual practice, the following are a few tips that I have found helpful:

- **Spend a few minutes each day praying for your enemy or competitor, asking God to bless him or her and the work he or she does.**
- **Hold that person or institution up before God and pray for as many good things to happen as you can think of.**
- **Do this once a day for four or five days this week. See if your heart begins to change toward this person.**

*Adapted from The Good and Beautiful Life: Putting on the Character of Christ*  
by James Bryan Smith