

#nowmorethanever

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*Everything I feel, say and do  
should be filtered through  
my relationship with Christ.*

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## **Matthew 5:43-48**

“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! <sup>45</sup> 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.

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## Matthew 5:43-48

<sup>46</sup> If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. <sup>47</sup> If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. <sup>48</sup> But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

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## Matthew 5:43-48

<sup>43</sup>“You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend,’ and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup>I’m challenging that. I’m telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, <sup>45</sup>for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish

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## Matthew 5:43-48

—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. <sup>46</sup>If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus?

Anybody can do that. <sup>47</sup>If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that. <sup>48</sup>“In a word, what I’m saying is, Grow up. You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.

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## **Leviticus 19:18**

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

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# LOVE THEM

**Matthew 5:44**

But I say, love your enemies!  
Pray for those who persecute  
you!

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# LOVE THEM

*Philia is brotherly love and the  
love of friendship*

*storge is the love of family*

*eros is desiring, romantic,  
physical love*

*agape is the love that seeks and  
works to meet another's highest  
welfare*

@jerrygodsey



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# LOVE THEM

## Romans 12:17-18

Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. 18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

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# LOVE THEM

**LUKE 6:28**

Bless those who curse you. Pray  
for those who hurt you.

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# LOVE THEM

## Proverbs 25:21-22

If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat. If they are thirsty, give them water to drink. 22 You will heap burning coals of shame on their heads, and the LORD will reward you.

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# LOVE THEM

*Christian love never settles for only what's reasonable. It insists on giving mercy as well as justice. It breaks the chain of logical reactions.*

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# PRAY FOR THEM

*“Prayer is the forerunner of  
mercy.”*

*Charles Spurgeon*

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# PRAY FOR THEM

## Acts 7:59-60

As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”<sup>60</sup> He fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!” And with that, he died.

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# PRAY FOR THEM

**Luke 23:34**

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

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# PRAY FOR THEM

## 1 Corinthians 4:10-13

Our dedication to Christ makes us look like fools, but you claim to be so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are so powerful! You are honored, but we are ridiculed. <sup>11</sup> Even now we go hungry and thirsty, and we don't have enough clothes to keep warm. We are often beaten and have no home.



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# PRAY FOR THEM

## 1 Corinthians 4:10-13

<sup>12</sup> We work wearily with our own hands to earn our living. We bless those who curse us. We are patient with those who abuse us. <sup>13</sup> We appeal gently when evil things are said about us. Yet we are treated like the world's garbage, like everybody's trash—right up to the present moment.

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# PRAY FOR THEM

*“This is the supreme demand.  
Through the medium of prayer we go  
to our enemy, stand by his side, and  
plead for him to God”  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

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# SHOW THEM

## Matthew 5:44-45

But I say, love your enemies!  
Pray for those who persecute  
you! <sup>45</sup> In that way, you will be  
acting as true children of your  
Father in heaven.

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# SHOW THEM

## Ephesians 4:31 - 5:1

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. <sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. <sup>1</sup>

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.

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# SHOW THEM

*People will see God in our love  
and actions.*

**OR**

*Our lack of love and bad actions  
can blind people to who God  
really is.*

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# SHOW THEM

## Matthew 5:45

For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.

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# SHOW THEM

## Matthew 5:46-47

If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. <sup>47</sup> If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else?

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# SHOW THEM

*And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world's healing hinges, but on His. When He tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself.*  
*Corrie Ten Boom*



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# BE DIFFERENT FROM THEM

**Matthew 5:48**

But you are to be perfect,  
even as your Father in  
heaven is perfect.

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# BE DIFFERENT FROM THEM

People are often unreasonable, illogical  
and self-centered;  
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of  
selfish ulterior motives;  
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some  
false friends and true enemies;  
Succeed anyway.

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# BE DIFFERENT FROM THEM

If you are honest and frank, people may  
cheat you;  
Be honest anyway.

What you spend years building, someone  
could destroy overnight;  
Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they  
may be jealous;  
Be happy anyway.

@jerrygodsey

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# BE DIFFERENT FROM THEM

The good you do today, people will often  
forget tomorrow;  
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it  
may never be enough;  
Give the world the best you've got  
anyway.

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# BE DIFFERENT FROM THEM

*You see, in the final analysis, it is  
between you and God;  
It was never between you and them  
anyway.*

**Mother Teresa**

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