



Thank you for downloading the
CQ Rewind - Summary Only Version!

Each week, the **Summary Only** version provides you with approximately 4 pages of brief excerpts from the program, along with Scripture citations.

If you would like to receive the **CQ Rewind FULL EDITION** at no charge, simply sign up at www.ChristianQuestions.com.

The **FULL EDITION** of approximately 10-12 pages includes comprehensive excerpts from the program, fully quoted Scriptures, graphics, illustrations, and even extra study points that time prevented us from covering during the live program.



Practically Speaking, How Do We Love Our Enemies?

Matthew 5:39: (NASB) *But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.*



Enemies. For some of us, naming them is easy - we can put a name and a face to them and recite the reasons we have to consider them enemies. For others, the idea of an enemy may be more related to a general group who may have a different ideology or political perspective. Whatever makes someone your enemy, the question remains, how do you treat them? Jesus says to love our enemies, but is that really a practical statement? Doesn't loving an enemy overlook and minimize the very reasons they may justifiably be our enemies? Stay with us!

We often think the "law of love", was biblically instituted by Jesus in the New Testament. Consider this:

First, behavior in the context of dealing with those who are not "with" you:

Exodus 23:1-9: (NASB) ¹You shall not bear a false report; do not join your hand with a wicked man to be a malicious witness. ²You shall not follow the masses in doing evil, nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after a multitude in order to pervert justice.

Second, behavior regarding the less fortunate:

³nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his dispute.

The Law should be applied equally whether you are rich or poor - proper justice.

Third, behavior related to the welfare of your enemy's property and welfare:

⁴If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey wandering away, you shall surely return it to him. ⁵If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying helpless under its load, you shall refrain from leaving it to him, you shall surely release it with him.

Our natural instinct is to let our enemies suffer.

Fourth, behavior in legal matters regarding the less fortunate:

⁶You shall not pervert the justice due to your needy brother in his dispute.

Fifth, behavior in all things based in righteousness is an absolute must:

⁷Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent or the righteous, for I will not acquit the guilty.

Sixth, behavior when ill-gotten gain is set before you:

⁸You shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of the just.

Seventh, behavior regarding those with whom you have no association or common ground:

⁹You shall not oppress a stranger, since you yourselves know the feelings of a stranger, for you also were strangers in the land of Egypt.

This is very compassionate, yet still very much founded in justice-based approach.

Throughout our discussion we will be referring to the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri this past August. That incident - which is yet unresolved - has cast our society into the choosing of sides and the subsequent making of enemies. What *should* we think?

How does Jesus teach us to act when we are being abused by our enemies?

Here is what Jesus teaches us to do when we are being treated badly: **Matthew 5:38-39:** (NASB) Does this mean we just let evil run roughshod over us? Are we doormats?

(Source: Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown) Our Lord's own meek, yet dignified bearing, when smitten rudely on the cheek (#Joh 18:22,23), and not literally presenting the other, is the best comment on these words. It is the preparedness after one indignity, not to invite but to submit meekly to another, without retaliation, which this strong language is meant to convey.

John 18:22-23: Jesus did not literally offer the other cheek. He responded and challenged what just happened. But he did not lash out with emotion. He stood his ground in truth and not retaliation.

Proverbs 20:22: (NASB) *Do not say, I will repay evil; Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.*

First lesson: Endure abuse - stand for and speak for what is right but do not retaliate in like manner! Rise ABOVE your right under the Law of the Old Testament!

Matthew 5:40: (NASB) *If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.*

(Source: Bible commentary by John Gill) "will contend with thee," or as the Syriac renders it, Kme Nwdnd, "will strive," or "litigate with thee"; not contest the matter, or try the cause in an open court of judicature, a sense our version inclines to; but will wrangle and quarrel in a private way, in order to take away thy coat by force and violence, let him have thy cloak also; do not forbid, or hinder him from taking it.

Luke 6:29 1 Corinthians 6:7

Second lesson: Don't enter into the personal, petty wrangling of life - even if it costs you, live above it!

Matthew 5:41: (NASB) *Whoever **forces <29>** you to go one mile, go with him two. (Forces is really a bad translation)*

Forces: Strongs #29 *aggareuw aggareuo ang-ar-yew'-o*
to impress into public service, to employ a courier, dispatch a mounted messenger;
hence to compel to perform a service

Matthew 27:32: *As they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they **pressed into service <29>** to bear his cross.*

Third lesson: Even when inconvenient, serve in a way beyond expectations!

Matthew 5:42: (NASB) *Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.*

(Source: Bible commentary by C.T. Russell) Not that we should lend to anybody who asks for a loan of money or goods, but that we should not turn away from those in need.

Matthew 25:35-36

Fourth lesson: Have your eyes and heart open to those individuals who may be in need and respond!

What is Jesus teaching about our response to those who may be enemies? Endure abuse, don't be petty, serve with vigor and touch those in need!

Was Michael Brown a "bad kid" or was Darren Wilson a "bad cop"?

What kind of kid was Michael Brown? (Source: Wikipedia: Backgrounds)

Michael Brown, Jr. (May 20, 1996 - August 9, 2014) was the son of Lesley McSpadden and Michael Brown, Sr. Brown graduated from Normandy High School in St. Louis eight days before his death, completing an alternative education program. His teachers said he was "a student who loomed large and didn't cause trouble," referring to him as a "gentle giant." At the time of his death, he was 6' 4" (1.93 m) tall and weighed 292 lb (132 kg). He was an amateur rapper and posted tracks online under the name Big Mike. Brown had no criminal record. Brown was to have started attending Vatterott College, a technical school, on August 11, with plans to become a heating and cooling engineer. A friend of Brown said that while everyone else wanted to be a basketball or football player, Brown had wanted to own his own business.

Christian love says - love your enemies! Matthew 5:43-46: (KJV) *Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt **love <25>** thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. ⁴⁴But I say unto you, **love <25>** 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; ⁴⁵That 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. ⁴⁶For if ye **love <25>** them, which **love <25>** you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same?*

- To love an enemy dissolves any potential traces of vengeance.
- To bless and pray for those who hate and abuse you can only be truly accomplished based upon our striving for that selfless love towards them.
- Be like God - God is a good and just God to all as shown in the seasons.
- Even when you are being persecuted, God is still a good and just God.

What kind of man is Darren Wilson? (Source: Wikipedia: Backgrounds) Darren Dean Wilson was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on May 14, 1986. He lives in Crestwood, Missouri, a city of 11,000 people about 18 miles (29 km) southwest of Ferguson, and was 28 years old at the time of the shooting. Wilson first worked as a police officer in the police department of Jennings, Missouri, later disbanded. Wilson had no disciplinary history with the department. While 12 of the 40 officers in the Jennings force found jobs with the county police, Wilson ended up taking a job in Ferguson. He was described by a Jennings coworker as an "average officer" who "didn't get into any trouble." Former Jennings Police Chief Robert Orr told the Times that he hardly remembered Wilson and said "that must mean he never got in any trouble, because that's when they usually came to me." In February 2014, Wilson received a commendation for "extraordinary effort in the line of duty" from the City of Ferguson. The citation was related to an incident in which he struggled with and detained for arrest a driver that police said was preparing a large amount of marijuana for sale.

Are these backgrounds complete? They are probably not. Does it matter? No! Why? Because justice has not yet been served, so we therefore have no business judging the matter on incomplete information! The only thing that comes from incomplete information is we make enemies!

This next text is a BIG hint as to how to love our enemies: Proverbs 14:29-30

Does vengeance play any role in loving our enemies?

Yes, as a matter of fact it does, but probably not in a way that we would think!

God's vengeance:

Nahum 1:2-3: (NASB) ²A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; The LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies.

What do we see in God's vengeance? Strong - just - complete...

³The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. In whirlwind and storm is His way, and clouds are the dust beneath His feet.

What else do we see in God's vengeance? Calculated, not passionate - powerful - all encompassing...

As Christians, do we ever get that "I can't wait 'til you get yours" attitude?

Sadly, even some of the best examples of Christianity have fallen into this pit: Luke 9:51-56

Key point: Our idea of vengeance and God's application of vengeance are ENTIRELY different.

 **Put you down puts me up, Jasmin Terrany, (Licensed Mental Health Care worker) Why We Judge Others**

- *We judge others often times because our love tank is empty, because we are not feeling good about ourselves. And often times when we put someone down it puts us up and we get this false sense of importance, or power, or "better than," and if you notice when you put someone down and you feel up there is like a sense of, "oh yeah, I'm better," but ultimately you're sitting with negativity; you're sitting with judgment. Just because you're better than them, you're still sitting with the need to be better than.*

Our perception becomes, "I can't be better unless they are worse."

What can cause the need for justice to be served? The committing of any wrong as defined by law. In America, everybody "owns" justice, and that is a powerful equalizer. (Unfortunately it is not always applied properly, but that is the principle.) Contrarily, vengeance and revenge are personally owned - "I'll get my vengeance!"

What is the difference between the two? Revenge is about "ME." Justice is about that which is right! Revenge is determined by my emotions mixed with circumstances. Justice is determined by events in conjunction with the law. Revenge is personally orchestrated and served. Justice is orchestrated and served through legal channels.

A few points to compare God's vengeance with our own:

- God's is for our ultimate good - ours is for our momentary satisfaction.
- God focuses us on the heavenly - ours is to focus on self-appeasement.
- God's is to teach a lasting lesson - ours is to lessen an emotional reaction.

Romans 12:17-19

Key Point: To love our enemies we **MUST** rely on God's standards and **NOT** our emotions or desire for vengeance!

How do the Apostles describe loving our enemies?

The Apostle Paul: Romans 12:14-21: Regarding "enemies," there is a clear focus on action built upon exactly what Jesus taught - be a blessing! Regarding all men and the body of Christ, we should enter into their experiences and find common ground through humility. Regarding all men, do **NOT** engage in any form of retaliation; rather, respect righteousness and peace. We do **NOT** own the right to vengeance - God does!

It is hard to love our enemies! It is hard to love the sinner yet hate the sin. That person is a fellow human being for whom Jesus died.

The Apostle Peter: 1 Peter 2:18-25: Stand for serving with dignity and respect, even if dignity and respect are not shown to you - why? ...because that's what Jesus did! By so doing, you will stand in Christ, like Christ and be blessed!

So, what does loving your enemies actually accomplish?

Proverbs 25:21-22: (NASB) ²¹*If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink;* ²²*For you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.*

(Source: Bible commentary by Alfred Barnes) #Leviticus 16:12 suggests an explanation. The high priest on the Day of Atonement was to take his censer, to fill it with "coals of fire," and then to put the incense thereon for a sweet-smelling savor.

Leviticus 16:12-13: So, perhaps those burning coals show us the sweet savor of the victory over evil that Jesus first produced for our example. John 16:33

Key Point: Loving our enemies actually reveals to them a better way to live!

1 Peter 3:13-16

Key Point: By standing in Christ, we can properly and humbly represent truth and right. By so standing, those who oppose such things can see the things they previously did not perceive.

Most of us are acting out of pain.

The final element that helps us to truly love our enemies: Matthew 7:1-5

Key Point: Judge **ONLY** in a manner that you want to be judged in!

Philippians 2:14-16: Loving your enemies is being a light to the world.

*So, practically speaking, how do we love our enemies?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*