

# Our Enemies

## *Matthew 5:44*

### Introduction

1. It is an honor and a responsibility to have friends (Proverbs 18:24).
2. We can learn a lot from the type of friends someone may have (Proverbs 22:24; James 4:4).
3. We can also learn from the type of enemies one may have (2 Timothy 3:12; Luke 6:46; 1 Peter 4:14-16).

- I. Why (Why would someone have enemies?)
  - A. Our enemies can sometimes be the result of unreasonable people.
    1. The innocent have been blamed.
    2. Paul knew of the potential harm unreasonable people could cause. “And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith” (2 Thessalonians 3:2).
  - B. Sometimes enemies can be created over a mistake (Proverbs 26:28).
  - C. Enemies can be created over your attempt to correct them (Galatians 4:16; Proverbs 9:8).
  - D. You might create an enemy because you do not use flattery. “But I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil” (1 Kings 22:8).
  - E. One may be your enemy because you are successful or happy. King Saul felt this toward David (1 Samuel 18:7). See also Proverbs 14:30.
  - F. You might have an enemy because you are really at fault.
    1. In this case, you should repent, apologize, and correct.
    2. Luke 17:4
- II. What (What should we do to/for our enemies?)
  - A. We should love our enemies (Matthew 5:44). They have a soul that will spend eternity somewhere. Don't we want them to go to heaven?
  - B. We should do good to them (Matthew 5:44).
  - C. We should pray for them (Matthew 5:44 & Luke 23:34).
  - D. We should never retaliate. “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord” (Romans 12:19).
  - E. We should not rejoice in their failings. “Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth” (Proverbs 24:17).
  - F. Remember that God is greater than our enemies (Psalm 23:5).

- III. One (There is one enemy who stands above the rest.)
- A. He is the Devil (Matthew 13:39; 1 Peter 5:7).
  - B. He is the most ruthless enemy of all.
  - C. He will promise us the world. Even if the Devil could give us the world, we would not have much (2 Peter 3:9, 10).
  - D. James tells us how to deal with this enemy (James 4:7, 8).

Word Find

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Enemies	Problems	Christians	World
Heaven	Bible	Help	Honor
Unreasonable	Mistake	Correction	Retaliate
Satan	Pray	Love	Flatter
Happy	Submit	Obedience	Father