



HAVING A Heart of Love FOR OUR ENEMIES

Jesus included the command to love our enemies in His sermon on the mount – His premier teaching on the Kingdom of Heaven. This command isn't burdensome. It's an invitation to be like Jesus and live like Jesus. Our primary calling in this life is to be made into the image of Christ Jesus through sanctification – becoming holy as He is holy. (See also 1 Peter 1:14-16)

Matthew 5:43-47 You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say to you, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in Heaven...

There is a cause-effect relationship with loving our enemies. When we love our enemies, our hearts are pure. The effect of our hearts being pure is the reality that we will see God. We will encounter His manifest presence more in our daily life.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Our enemies are broken people who have experienced their own pain, anger, trauma, abuse, jealousy, etc. They have brokenness in them that causes them to live and act the way they do. Hurt people hurt people. Saul's brokenness was his jealousy of David. First and foremost, we need to accept that our enemies are broken people if we long to forgive and love them.

"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."

MATTHEW 5:43-48

Saul sinned against David in three ways:

- Murder & Hate (See 1 Samuel 18-19)
- Manipulation (See 1 Samuel 18:17-30)
- Slander (See 1 Samuel 22:6-8)

David's response towards Saul his enemy was revolutionary, counter cultural. David had revelation from God of the law of love and mercy that Jesus would come teach many years later and He acted in this love and mercy towards Saul.

David's response towards Saul shows us three things about his heart posture:

- David's heart was pure and repentant. (See 1 Samuel 24:6)
- David honored Saul as the Lord's anointed. (See 1 Samuel 24:8-11)
- David had a heart of surrender towards the Lord. (See 1 Samuel 24:12-13)

We can develop a heart like David towards our enemies. First, we need to forgive our enemies from our hearts and release them to God. Second, in the grace of God, by the Holy Spirit, we need to commit to walk in meekness, mercy, and love towards those who hurt or offend us in any way.

Luke 23:34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Romans 12:14,17 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them...Repay no one evil for evil but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

PRAY THIS PRAYER

"Jesus, give me Your eyes. Give me Your heart. Help me see others the way You do, especially those who hurt me. Help me to feel the way You feel about others, even those who attack me. I want to have a heart like David."

GRACE CHURCH

Services
Sunday at 9 & 11 am

May 28, 2023

4701 Illinois Route 111
Granite City, IL 62040

GraceEast.org
618.797.9910

WHAT'S
NEXT?



Y.A.M. Presents
Worship Night Featuring:
WORSHIP GENERATION
June 3 @ 6 pm
Follow Y.A.M. and Worship Generation on Instagram for updates and info!
Nacho Bar!
Please register to help us plan!
Register here:
GraceEast.org/Yam

@yam grace east @the.worshipgeneration

SUN, JUN 4 • 5 – 7 PM • GYM
YOUTH
GAME NIGHT!
AT THE CHURCH!

Fun, food & games! Grades 6 – 12 welcome!
Questions? Contact Tiffany @ 618.530.6427

W O M E N

EAST ALTON
June 23 @ 6:30 pm
We're going out for ice cream!
Meet at the church at 6:30 PM.
Kim @ 618-401-4455 / Katie @ 618-975-2264

BIBLE ADVENTURE!
3 Years – 6th Grade

MONDAY
JUNE 26
6 – 7:30 PM
FUN! FOOD! FELLOWSHIP! PRAYER!
Sign up:
jmckinney@gracestl.org

VBS is going to be
STELLAR
SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

Sun – Thurs July 16 – 20
6 – 8:30 PM
FREE for kids ages
4 years old – 6th Grade!

Sign-up here! Or
GraceEast.org/VBS

Questions? Contact Jen @
jmckinney@gracestl.org

Stop by the VBS Table!

- T-shirts available!
- Sign up to **VOLUNTEER** @ GraceEast.org/vbs-volunteer or scan here ⇨

SMALL GROUPS & PRAYER

S.M.I.L.E	SUN	10:15 AM	Gym Room 103	Kyle & Wendy Knight	beveryblessed@yahoo.com	636-485-3827
Stretching/Scriptures	MON	9:30 AM	GCE Gym	Evelyn Harris	evharris@charter.net	618-558-7989
1 Peter	MON	6:00 PM	Sanctuary	Rufus & Melissa Valencia	rufus@gracestl.org	618-604-0534
The God in Me	TUE	10:00 AM	GCE B5	Marilyn Davis	saverdixon@gmail.com	618-709-2371
Womens Bible Study	TUE	6:30 PM	Gym Room 103	Kasey C. & Katie V.	kayy85@aol.com	618-420-2008
Bible Study	TUE	6:30 PM	Cook's home	Terry & Pam Cook	cook.terry@yahoo.com	618-789-3362
Jesus & Women	WED	11:30 AM	Kozer home	Lynnette Kozer	lkozer77@gmail.com	618-781-2744
Prayer	FRI	6:00 PM	Sanctuary	Kyle & Wendy Knight	beveryblessed@yahoo.com	636-485-3827
Youth Bible Study	1st & 3rd SUN	11:00 AM	GCE B3	Art & Megan Jalinsky	mjalinsky@sbcglobal.net	314-223-0133
YAM-Young Adults	2nd & 4th SUN	6:30 PM	Gym Room 103	Timmy Vaughan	timcanrecycling@gmail.com	618-876-9030