**Love Your Enemies**

**2 Kings 5:1-19**

**Retribution Principle**

* Biblical Summary: God delights in prospering the righteous and guarantees the wicked will be punished
* For Nations:
  + Deuteronomy: Conforming to God’s expectations is rewarded, and violating God’s commands brings punishment.
  + Amos 1-2: Damascus (Syria), Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, Moab, Judah, and Israel
* For individual: Psalms/Proverbs:
  + Psalm 1:6 For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.
  + Proverbs 3:3-4 Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation.
  + Proverbs 22:4 True humility and fear of the Lord lead to riches, honor, and long life.
* Can’t be used to demand action from God or figure out what a person is really like

**New Testament Loving Your Enemy Statements**

* Matthew 5:43-48
* Luke 6:27-36 “But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. . . . Do to others as you would like them to do to you. . . . You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.
* Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you. Don’t curse them; pray that God will bless them.
* 1 Peter 3:9 Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing.

**Old Testament Loving Your Enemy Statements**

* Exodus 23:4-5 If you come upon your enemy’s ox or donkey that has strayed away, take it back to its owner. If you see that the donkey of someone who hates you has collapsed under its load, do not walk by. Instead, stop and help.
* Proverbs 24:17 Don’t rejoice when your enemies fall; don’t be happy when they stumble.
* Proverbs 25:21-22 If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat. If they are thirsty, give them water to drink. You will heap burning coals of shame on their heads, and the Lord will reward you. (Note: Paul quotes from Prov in Rom 12:20)

**Old Testament Loving Your Enemy Statement Examples**

* 1 Samuel 24:4-13 David spares the life of King Saul
* 1 Kings 17:7-16 Elijah and the widow from at Zarephath
* 2 Kings 5 Naaman’s wife’s maidservant, Elisha

**God’s Simple Plan of Salvation** (from [www.cicfamiliy.com](http://www.cicfamiliy.com) articles of faith)

Salvation - Salvation is God’s act of forgiving sin based on the shed blood of Christ, reconciling people to Him, and giving eternal life to those who believe in Jesus. To be saved from the power and eternal penalty of sin, a person must admit that he/she is a sinner, repent and believe that Jesus died and rose again, and receive the Lord Jesus Christ personally as the only Savior. As a result, that person receives a new nature and becomes a true born-again Christian. Salvation is not a reward for good works but a free gift of God received by faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:3-8; 1 John 5:11-13).

**A New Creation – Food Sacrificed to Idols**

1 Cor 8:1 – 11:1 Key points

* while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church.
* we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God
  + *this would imply it is okay to eat food sacrificed to idols*
* you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble
  + *this would imply that although it is okay, you should avoid food sacrificed to idols*
* Ch 9: Paul gives up his right for payment as an apostle
  + *Similar to Elisha not accepting Naaman’s gifts*
* Ch 10: Learn from Israel’s mistakes
  + *Even though Israel never seemed to actually learn from her mistakes*
* 10:31 So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.