

**HFG Questions for  
“Radical Love”  
(Matthew 5:43-47)**

**Read Matthew 5:43-47.**

**1.** When the Scribes and Pharisees taught on Leviticus 19:18b, what phrase did they leave out, and how did that affect the meaning of the verse? What words did they ADD to Scripture (v. 43)?

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**2.** When Jesus said to “love” our enemies, which Greek word for “love” did He use (v. 44)? How does Paul define that kind of love in 1 Corinthians 13? How can this love be commanded?

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**3.** What second command does Jesus give us regarding our enemies (v. 44)? What examples do we see in Scripture of this command being lived out?

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**4.** Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: “*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.*” What should the content of our prayers be? (Hint: consider Mat. 7:12)

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**5.** WHY should we pray for blessing for our enemies, according to v. 45? What do theologians mean by the term “common grace”?

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**6.** Does loving our enemies MAKE us God’s children or give evidence that we ARE God’s children? Explain the difference.

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**7.** How is the Christian to go BEYOND what the world considers to be loving (vv. 46-47)?

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**8.** Think about this quote, and comment on it. “*To return evil for good is devilish; to return good for good is human; to return good for evil is divine.*” (Alfred Plummer, 19<sup>th</sup> c. theologian/writer)

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**9.** How does loving our enemies fulfill our calling given in Matthew 5:13-14, 16?

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**10.** Is there an enemy in your life whom you need to be loving and praying for?

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