

## THE BETTER LIFE OF PEACE

*"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." – Matthew 5:43-44 (NIV)*

*"If you see your enemy hungry, go buy him lunch; if he's thirsty, bring him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness and God will look after you." – Proverbs 25:21-22 (The Message)*

*"Joy fills hearts that are planning peace." – Proverbs 12:20 (NLT)*

*"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." – Romans 5:8 (NIV)*

### Benefits of Loving Our Enemies

1. There's a \_\_\_\_\_ benefit.

*"A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones." – Proverbs 14:30 (NIV)*

2. There's a \_\_\_\_\_ benefit.

*"For as a person thinks within himself, so he is." – Proverbs 23:7 (NASB)*

3. There's a \_\_\_\_\_ benefit.

*"Overlook an offense and bond a friendship; fasten on to a slight and – goodbye, friend!" – Proverbs 17:9 (The Message)*

4. There's a \_\_\_\_\_ benefit

*"But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." – Matthew 6:15 (NIV)*

*"The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed...." – Proverbs 11:25 (The Message)*

5. There's a \_\_\_\_\_ benefit.

*"If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that.... You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it.... Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you." – Matthew 5:46-48 (The Message)*

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### The \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Process

*"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."* – Romans 12:18 (NIV)

Step #1: \_\_\_\_\_  
*"God... closely attends to the prayers of God-loyal people."* – Proverbs 15:29 (The Message)  
*"...Pray for those who mistreat you."* – Luke 6:28 (NIV)

Step #2 \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Never seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone, but love your neighbor as yourself."* – Leviticus 19:18 (NLT)

Step #3: \_\_\_\_\_  
*"...Do good to those who hate you...."* – Luke 6:27 (NIV)

*"If you see your enemy hungry, go buy him lunch; if he's thirsty, bring him a drink...."* – Proverbs 25:21 (The Message)

*"Bless those who curse you...."* – Luke 6:28 (NIV)

Step #4: \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Who can say, 'I have cleansed my heart; I am pure and free from sin?'"* – Proverbs 20:9 (NLT)

*"He who conceals his sins does not prosper...."* – Proverbs 28:13 (NIV)

Step #5: \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."* – Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)

*"When the ways of people please the Lord, He makes even their enemies live at peace with them."* – Proverbs 16:7 (NLT)