

- I. What is an enemy?
 - A. Subjective sense: someone who opposes or hates me.
 - B. Objective sense: a destroyer; committed to evil and wrongdoing.

- II. Why love my enemies?
 - A. You don't see as clearly as you think (and you may be on the wrong side!)
 - B. God promises to make all things right (to judge with equity)
 - C. God is kind to the evil and the good alike: Jesus loved you when you were His enemy

- III. What will happen if I love my enemies?
 - A. What will happen to them (Proverbs 25:11-12; quoted in Romans 12:20)
 - B. What will happen to you:
 - i. You will become more like God in character
 - ii. You will be detached from the rival claims to your affections
 - iii. At the judgment your works will prove the truth of your profession.
 - C. God will do his work of sifting, in preparation for the judgment.
 - D. What will happen if you refuse: you become God's enemy.

- IV. How far is too far?
 - A. "How many times must I forgive my brother?" (Matthew 18:21-22)
 - B. There is nothing that I must protect for my own sake.
 - C. There may be things I must protect for the sake of others.
 - D. Our response to wrongdoing must be for the good of the wrongdoers.
 - E. When you have been wronged, treat the other person as you would want to be treated if you had wronged them – with generosity!

- V. What does this look like?
 - A. The revealing thing is how you respond to trouble.
 - B. We are to respond to mistreatment with a generosity.
 - C. You will show *practical* love to bad people.
 - D. You won't respond to provocation reflexively.
 - E. You will bring those who are wronging you before God in prayer.
 - F. You will be candid and not sentimental in your communication with your enemy.
 - G. You will give thanks that you are following Christ in blameless suffering.
 - H. You will do good, in concrete ways.
 - I. You will be prepared to be wronged.
 - J. Do you have enemies? Who are *our* enemies? (Revelation 11:18)

- VI. How is this possible?
 - A. Jesus points us constantly to the coming kingdom.
 - B. "Give what you command and command what you will." (Augustine)
 - C. "While we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son." (Romans 5:10)
 - D. Be merciful, just as your Father has been merciful to *you*.