



# Word of God Ministry Church Under The Son

Reverend Bill Inman

Telephone 817-239-8677

Post Office Box 185292 • Fort Worth, Texas 76181-0292

RevBill@WOGM.net • www.WOGM.net

## Enemies

An enemy is someone who is against us, who may wish us evil, or who may even try to harm us. Sometimes we do not understand why someone is our enemy. Other times, we contribute to the antagonistic relationship, too. While our inclination may be to respond to enemies in a negative way, or even to retaliate, God's Word instructs us differently.

- Are You At Fault

*Romans 12:18* <sup>18</sup> *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*

Sometimes you cannot control the fact that someone is your enemy. For example, some people may be hostile toward you because of your relationship with Jesus Christ. Other times, however, the fault may be yours for not pursuing peaceful relationships with others. Your own attitudes and actions can create enemies or widen existing differences. If you are facing an antagonistic relationship, begin by looking at your own behavior and follow God's Word for how to treat others.

The Bible says to think of others more highly than yourself (Philippians 2:3). Selfishness and insensitivity toward others contributes to contrary relationships. And gossip destroys relationships (Proverbs 16:28). Address the flaws in yourself rather than focusing on the flaws of others (Luke 6:42), and treat others as you would like to be treated (Luke 6:31, 37). Address difficult situations, rather than ignoring them (Matthew 18:15-17). Relate humbly to others with an attitude of forgiveness rather than criticizing and gossiping (Proverbs 17:9). Love your enemies, bless them, do good to them, and pray for them (Matthew 5:44).

## Enemies



# Word of God Ministry Church Under The Son

Reverend Bill Inman

Telephone 817-239-8677

Post Office Box 185292 • Fort Worth, Texas 76181-0292

RevBill@WOGM.net • www.WOGM.net

- Christ's Standard For Responding To Enemies

*Matthew 5:43-46* <sup>43</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, <sup>45</sup>that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup>For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”

Loving those who oppose you is not easy. Though you may not actually feel love initially, you can still express love through how you act and your attitude. Your love will continue to develop as you pray for your enemies. Even if your enemy's attitude never changes, yours will, and that is the only attitude for which you are responsible. When you pray, be open to hearing God's solution for reconciliation, and be prepared to take the first steps. God loved you when you were still His enemy. He expressed that love when He sent Jesus to make reconciliation possible. As you surrender to God, He can give you power to love your enemies, too.

When you realize how much God has forgiven you, it becomes easier to forgive others. God can give you a forgiving spirit toward others. Your attitude toward your enemies should be the same as Jesus' attitude. He said, “But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also” (Matthew 5:39). He also said that we should give more than what is asked of us (Matthew 5:41). No matter how much someone has offended you, God still asks you to forgive your enemies and even pray for them (Matthew 5:44).

*“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32).*

## Enemies

Page 2