

## Matthew 17 – Divine Love

### Matthew 5:43-48

**Fallen Condition Focus (FCF): We practice selfish love and fail to understand that the greatest example of love for an enemy is found in Christ's love for believers.**

- Correction
- “You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'”
- Bible doesn't say “love neighbor, hate enemies”
  - “The Bible never commands us to hate individual enemies, but there is a place for righteous wrath toward God's settled enemies. On judgment day, we will rejoice at their downfall, for their end is inseparable from the victory of God and His saints. Thus when we view the wicked as a class, from an eternal perspective, our love for them ceases. In daily life, however, we have no right to adopt the eternal perspective. We cannot classify people” – Doriani, Sermon on the Mount

#### Point 1 – Deficiency of human love

- Not inherently wrong to love those who are more lovable
- This kind of love can actually be sinful
  - Loving those who love you - Selfish love
  - The opposite of love, which is giving of yourself

#### Point 2 – Example of Divine love

- Points to God's Common Grace
- God loved you when you were His enemy
- Divine love - **Romans 5:8** God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

#### Point 3 – Necessity of Divine Love

- Progression from 5:20-48
- You need to understand the weight of accusation that stands against you
- You will never understand God's grace until you understand your depravity
- We must understand forgiveness in light of the fact that we were God's enemies