

February 2015

From the Pastor



Loving His Enemies

There are names you hear that make you tremble. Why? Because they remind you of a person with the same name who in some way hurt you badly. This person would best be called your enemy some time in your life.

He or she may have been that bully who picked on you in the third grade. Maybe for you it was that guy who never showed up to take you on that date that you anticipated for almost two weeks. It could be that person who had gotten the promotion you deserved by stealing your idea.

There are people that if I mention their name, many of us would shudder. Names such as Adolf Hitler, Saddam Hussein, Idi Amin or Osama bin Laden. When they were alive many of us would have called them our enemy.

I went to the website brainyquote.com and found some quotes about how to deal with enemies. Here are some that I found.¹

The art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can, and keep moving on.

~ Ulysses S. Grant

Communism is not love. Communism is a hammer which we use to crush the enemy.

~ Mao Zedong

Savage, despicable evil. That's what we were fighting in Iraq. That's why a lot of people, myself included, called the enemy 'savages.' There really was no other way to describe what we encountered there.

~ Chris Kyle

Have you considered that you could be an enemy of God? If you are a sinner, then you are God's enemy. You have turned your back on God. It is even worse than that; you are fighting God by going against what He has told you to do.

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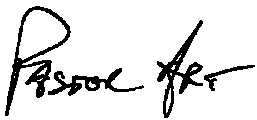
¹ From <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/enemy.html>, accessed 1/26/15.

Do you know what God did for His enemies? It would be fairly accurate to say that God has millions of enemies here on earth; millions of people who oppose Him. Look at what the apostle Paul says about God's treatment of His enemies.

⁶ For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ (For rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person perhaps someone might possibly dare to die.) ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, because we have now been declared righteous by his blood, we will be saved through him from God's wrath. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, since we have been reconciled, will we be saved by his life? ¹¹ Not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation. (Romans 5:6-11 New English Translation)

Can you imagine that? God loves His enemies and actually died for them. You and I are God's enemies until we turn our heart over to Jesus. Let me encourage you to turn your life over to Jesus and experience God's love for you; a love so great that He showed it by dying for all His enemies.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jeff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.