

## WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!



WELCOME

WELCOME TO CEC..... Pastor Phill  
SINGING TOGETHER ..... Love so great (You are the Lord almighty)  
UPDATES ..... Pastor Phill  
SINGING TOGETHER ..... My Lord, what love is this (amazing love)  
What can wash away my sin

PRAYER  
SINGING TOGETHER ..... Who O Lord could save themselves  
BIBLE READING ..... Matthew 5:38-48 (Church Bible page 1022)  
MESSAGE ..... Taught by Pastor Phill  
SINGING TOGETHER ..... How great the chasm (living hope)

## RELATIONSHIP



STATUS

### Relationship Status ~6 How to live in harmony with everyone. Matthew 5:38-48

*'You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.'* Matthew 5:43-44

*'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 MSG

*'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 MSG*

#### 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 MSG

#### 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 MSG

## How to work towards making peace with our enemies:

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

### 1. I must \_\_\_\_\_ for help to forgive.

*'God closely attends to the prayers of God-loyal people.'* Proverbs 15:29 MSG

*'Pray for those who mistreat you.'* Luke 6:28 NIV

### 2. I must have \_\_\_\_\_ for the other person.

*'Never seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone, but love your neighbour as yourself.'* Leviticus 19:18 NLT

### 3. I must take \_\_\_\_\_ steps to extend compassion.

*'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 MSG

*'Bless those who curse you.'* Luke 6:28 NIV

### 4. I must \_\_\_\_\_ my part in the problem.

*'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

### 5. I must \_\_\_\_\_ the example of Jesus.

*'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



## SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

1. What do you find hard about trying to forgive others, especially 'enemies'?
2. Read Matthew 5:43-44. Why are these words so hard to do and so counter cultural?
3. Look at the 5 benefits that we and others receive when we love our enemies. Which one particularly resonated with you?
4. Read Matthew 5:46-48. Why does the world take notice when someone actually lives out these verses?
5. Read Romans 12:18. What does this verse tell us about our responsibility? Give some examples of what this might look like in life today.
6. Have you tried to do Luke 6:28, and if so what happened? If not, what stops you?
7. Read Luke 6:27 and Proverbs 25:21. What are some of the concrete action steps we could take to extend compassion to our enemies?
8. Read Proverbs 20:9. Why is it important to confess our part in a conflict with another person? What might happen when we do this?
9. Read Ephesians 5:1-2. In what ways is Jesus our model?
10. Read Proverbs 16:7. Is this verse actually possible? How might we experience this reality in our lives today?

Watch us on



Watch and listen to the message again, or an archived message by going to [www.youtube.com/cowplainchurch](http://www.youtube.com/cowplainchurch).