

**Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for July 1, 1984**

**Love Your Enemies
Matthew 5:43-48
Dale Whitehead**

1. What the Jews did understand.

“You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” This was the Jews righteous standard.

Leviticus 19:18, “love your neighbor as yourself.” The Jews confine “neighbor” to certain people. **Matthew 9:9**, the Pharisees did not include “tax gatherers and sinners” to be neighbors. **John 7:45-49**, those who did not know the law, that is agree with the Pharisees were not neighbors.

Matthew 5:46, Jesus turns this type of thinking around. The Pharisees were so wrapped up in self-righteousness that they did not see their own sinfulness.

Leviticus 19:33-34 explains the true concept of neighbor.

2. What the Jews did not understand.

Love is fulfilling the Law. The Jews had also lowered the quality of love. **Leviticus 19:18**, Love neighbor as self. **Matthew 5:43**, Love you neighbor and hate your enemy. To hate an enemy is not taught anywhere in the Bible.

Psalms 139:19-22, David speaks of hate, but it is of those who mock God.

Psalms 139:23-24, David goes on to ask God to search and know him and to lead him.