Loving Our Enemies

“Standing true in a post-truth, post-Christian society” series – principle 6
Matthew 5:43-48

PROPOSITION: In a world where opponents are vilified and crucified, we will love our persecutors.

I. Quick Review

A. When truth is ‘feelings-based’ – hold on to Biblical truth
   Joshua 1:1-9

B. When frustrated with false teaching – make efforts to teach young
   Deuteronomy 6

C. Called a bigot or backwards – do good, love neighbors, serve the least of these
   Romans 12:14-21

D. People treated as opponents or commodities – dignify all as in image of God
   James 3:9-12

E. People told worst about Christianity – be an ambassador
   2 Corinthians 5:20-21

II. Loving our enemies

A. Truly counter-cultural
B. Love/pray for enemies
C. In line with God’s common grace & our adoption by God
D. God richly rewards this love
E. Distinguishes Jesus’ followers
F. Murder, hate, lust, deception & retaliation aren’t mature

III. Additional thoughts

A. Doesn’t preclude defending or protecting oneself/group
B. Does include not needing to always “win”/being correct
C. These actions are evidence of our faith rather than fear & anxiety
D. Advocate law changes as an American
E. Request God’s heart towards them

VI. Illustrated in the life of Corrie ten Boom (The Hiding Place)

03-24-2019; Cartoons (on back) by permission