

**Why We Should Love Our Enemies** by John Piper  
Solid Joys, [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org)

*"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."* (Luke 6:27)

There are two main reasons why Christians should love their enemies and do good to them.

One is that it reveals something of the way God is. God is merciful.

- He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (Matthew 5:45)
- He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. (Psalm 103:10)
- Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

So, when Christians live this way, by God's power, we show something of what God is like.

The second reason is that the hearts of Christians are satisfied with God and are not driven by the craving for revenge or self-exaltation or money or earthly security.

God has become our all-satisfying treas-

ure and so we don't treat our adversaries out of our own sense of need and insecurity, but out of our own fullness with the satisfying glory of God.

Hebrews 10:34, "You joyfully accepted the plundering of your property [that is, you didn't retaliate against your adversaries], since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one." What takes away the compulsion of revenge is our deep confidence that this world is not our home, and that God is our utterly sure and all-satisfying reward. We know that we have "a better possession and an abiding one."

So, in both these reasons for loving our enemy we see the main thing: God is shown to be who he really is as a merciful God and as gloriously all-satisfying.

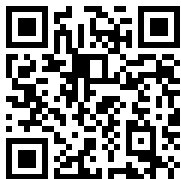
The power to be merciful is that we have been satisfied with God's mercy toward us. And the ultimate reason for being merciful is to glorify God, that is, to help others magnify him for his mercy. We want to show that God is magnificent. We want our love, by God's mercy, to make God look great in the eyes of man.

## Events

5/19 Small Groups

5/30 Full church reopening  
with AM communion

## Give



## Upcoming Events



## Pastors

Stephen Byrd    Stu Johnston  
Michael Lopes

## Service Times

— Sunday School 9:30 am  
— Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am  
— Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm  
— Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

919-563-9249  
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**GRACE**  
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

May 16, 2021

*and this is eternal life,  
that they know you,  
the only true God,  
and Jesus Christ  
whom you have sent*

*John 17:3*



## Morning Worship

Call to Worship	Pastor Stephen Byrd
Opening Hymn	Living Hope
Scripture Reading	Romans 11:1-24, page 946
Pastoral Prayer	
Offertory	#550 Jesus, Priceless Treasure
Preparatory	Christ is Mine Forevermore
Sermon	Pastor Stu Johnston
Post Sermon	#580 It is Well

## Evening Worship

Call to Worship	Jack Dix
Opening Hymn	#6 All Ye that Fear Jehovah's Name
Scripture Reading	Proverbs 9:13-10:14, page 533
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Stephen Byrd
Offertory	#21 God Moves in a Mysterious Way
Preparatory	When Trials Come
Sermon	Pastor Michael Lopes
Pre-sermon Reading	Titus 1:9-16
Post Sermon	By Faith

## CLI Prison Ministry Book Drive

Until June 30, bring Christian books, CD's, and DVD's.

Please no hard cover books.

Collection box is in the back foyer.

Extra boxes for packing the books are appreciated!