ENEMIES

Enemies are like relatives, everybody has them. Jesus was very specific in Luke 6:27, 30, “Love your enemies, and do good to them that hate you.” Now that is a tall order! It is an easy thing to love those who love us, but to love those who hate us or who are our enemies is another matter.

The apostle Paul also wrote to the Romans, “if thine enemy hunger give him food, if he thirst give him to drink, for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head.” (Romans 12:20)

Someone once said, “If it was easy, anyone could do it.” Well, that is the way it is with enemies. One of the problems is that people do not understand what Jesus and Paul are saying. They are not saying we are to “like” our enemies. Now love is another matter. They are talking about what some call “agape love.” That is the kind of love that prompts the Christian to want good for all people, including their enemies.

Several years ago a member of the church said, “I love to heap coals of fire upon their heads.” What she was talking about is not what the scriptures teach.

We must each wrestle with our own peculiarities and inadequacies where our enemies are concerned. But we must strive to get revenge out of our hearts and lives with those who hate us.

“Love (of the right kind) covers a multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:8)