

Love Your Enemies

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General Conference
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Summary

Knowing that we are all children of God gives us a vision of the worth of others and the ability to rise above prejudice.

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Theme 1: Love your enemy

- President Oaks says, “In a democratic government, we will always have differences over proposed candidates and policies. However, as followers of Christ, we must forgo the anger and hatred with which political choices are debated or denounced in many settings.” Why?
- How do you participate in the public square without being sucked into such discord?
- President Oaks declares, “What revolutionary teachings for personal and political relationships!” What is it, and how do we follow the commandment?
- Who is the source of such contention?
- Why would Satan want to stir us up to anger? What are the results?
- President Oaks quotes President Hinckley. What do you think of President Hinckley’s words?
- Why is it not easy to love your enemy? How do we work on gaining this Christlike attribute?
- How does the statement “Render unto Caesar the things of Caesar” apply to us today?
- How does the statement “Render unto God the things which be God’s” apply to us?
- Give me some examples of the things of God.
- When I say, “You make me so angry,” Is that really possible. (See President Monson’s quote)
- What is your reaction to President Oaks’ statement, “We move toward loving our adversaries when we avoid anger and hostility toward those with whom we disagree. It also helps if we are even willing to learn from them.”
- How can I get to know someone else?

Theme 2: Power of Love

- What are your thoughts about the three prophetic teachings on the power of love?
- Give me specific ways to follow the prophets?

Theme 3 Obey the laws of the land

- What are your thoughts about D&C 58:21-22?
- How do we react to laws that we disagree with?
- According to President Oaks, how should the Saints react to the recent U.S. election?
- With his teachings in mind, is there anything we can do if we disagree with the outcome?

Theme 4: Racism

- According to President Oaks, the commandment “To love another” is based on what eternal truth? How does this reality help us approach social issues?
- According to this talk, racism thrives on what? In your opinion, which element is the most damaging?
- As Saints, what should we do about racism? How do we do that?
- What are the differences between a protest and a mob? Do different attitudes drive them?
- In the next to last paragraph, President Oaks tells us the best way to love our adversaries and our enemies. What is it?
- Give me an example of a “temporary ally.”
- How do you strive to be Christlike in all interactions?
