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This week the world is celebrating romantic love, but Heaven is asking us about our enduring, everlasting love walk. The danger Jesus warned about isn't that we would stop going to church — It's that our love would grow cold. Do you have Valentine's Day love or Kingdom of God love? How's your love walk?

Valentine's Day:

- **Feelings**
- **Flowers**
- **Affection**



Kingdom of God:

- **Covenant**
- **Character**
- **Christlike Love**



Matthew 24:12 ESV

“And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.” *JESUS*




Revelation 2:4 ESV

**“But I have this against you,
that you have abandoned the
love you had at first.” *JESUS***

“Cold Love” Symptoms:

- * Offense is easier than forgiveness.**
- * Worship becomes mechanical.**
- * Prayer becomes optional.**
- * Compassion becomes selective.**

You don't fall out of love with God in a day — you drift one degree at a time.

Many believers aren't in open rebellion — they're in quiet emotional withdrawal. And that's how love dies: not through explosions but through slow disengagement.  Love doesn't usually die loudly. It freezes silently.

Some of you didn't stop loving God—you just stopped *feeling safe* to love Him fully. This morning covenant love is calling you back out of hiding.

People today often stop feeling safe to love God fully after:

- unanswered prayers.
- spiritual abuse or harsh teaching.
- personal failure or moral collapse.
- chronic suffering.
- being taught God's love is conditional.

God is maturing His Church from:

- Butterfly love → To covenant love.
- Feeling love → To faithful love.
- Convenient love → To Cross-shaped love.

Billy Graham once said, "It's God's job to judge, it's the Holy Spirit's job to convict, and it's our job to love."

Turn to Isaiah 54:8 & Matthew 5:48.
Isaiah shows us who God is. Matthew
shows us what God's children look like.

Isaiah 54:8 ESV

“In overflowing anger for a moment I hid My face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,” says the LORD, your Redeemer.”

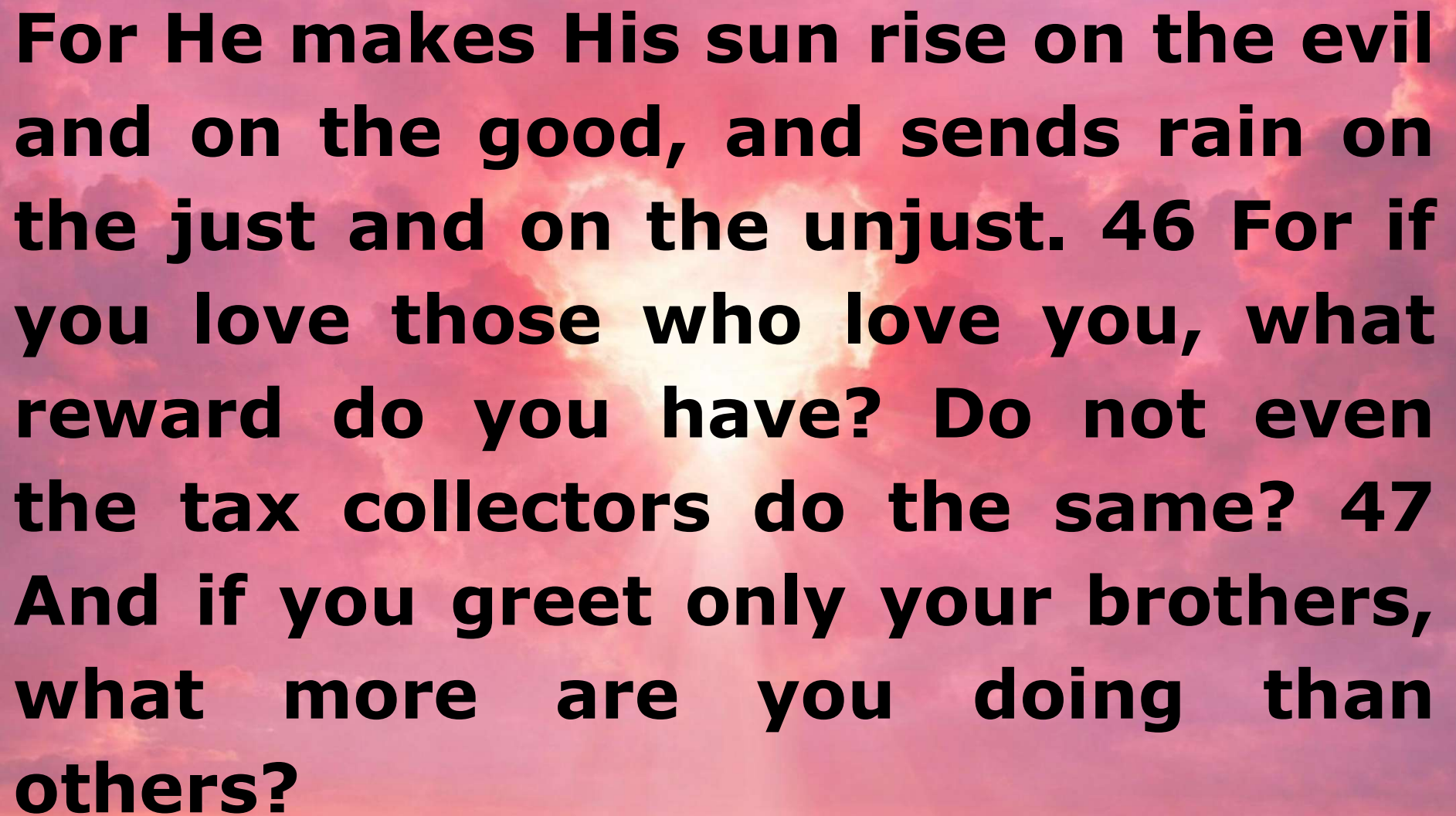
Hebrew word "Hesed" - "everlasting love." It means a covenant love. It's a love that doesn't quit.

Isaiah is saying that judgment is temporary, but love is God's default heart posture. Is it yours?

Isaiah 54:8 reassures a broken, ashamed people that their suffering does not define their future. God's anger is not His final word. His everlasting love is. The verse holds together two truths the Bible often keeps side by side: God takes wrongdoing seriously, and God's love and mercy ultimately outweighs judgment.

Matthew 5:43-48 ESV

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in Heaven.



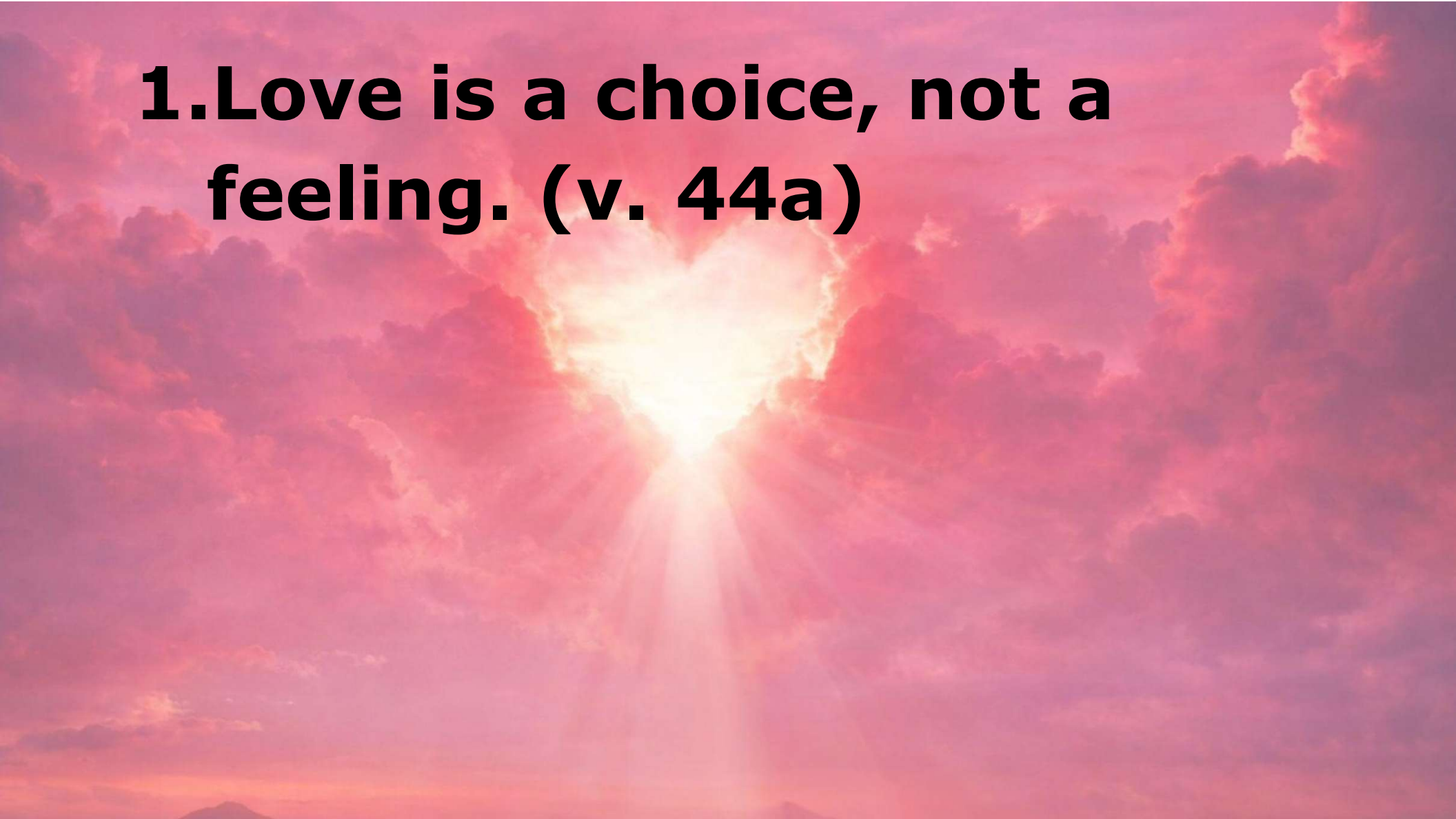
**For He makes His sun rise on the evil
and on the good, and sends rain on
the just and on the unjust. 46 For if
you love those who love you, what
reward do you have? Do not even
the tax collectors do the same? 47
And if you greet only your brothers,
what more are you doing than
others?**



Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your Heavenly Father is perfect.”

JESUS

1. Love is a choice, not a feeling. (v. 44a)



When Jesus commands love for enemies, He's not asking for affection or approval. Biblically, love here means **actively willing the good of the other**, even when they've wronged you. **(Romans 12:20-21 Slide)**

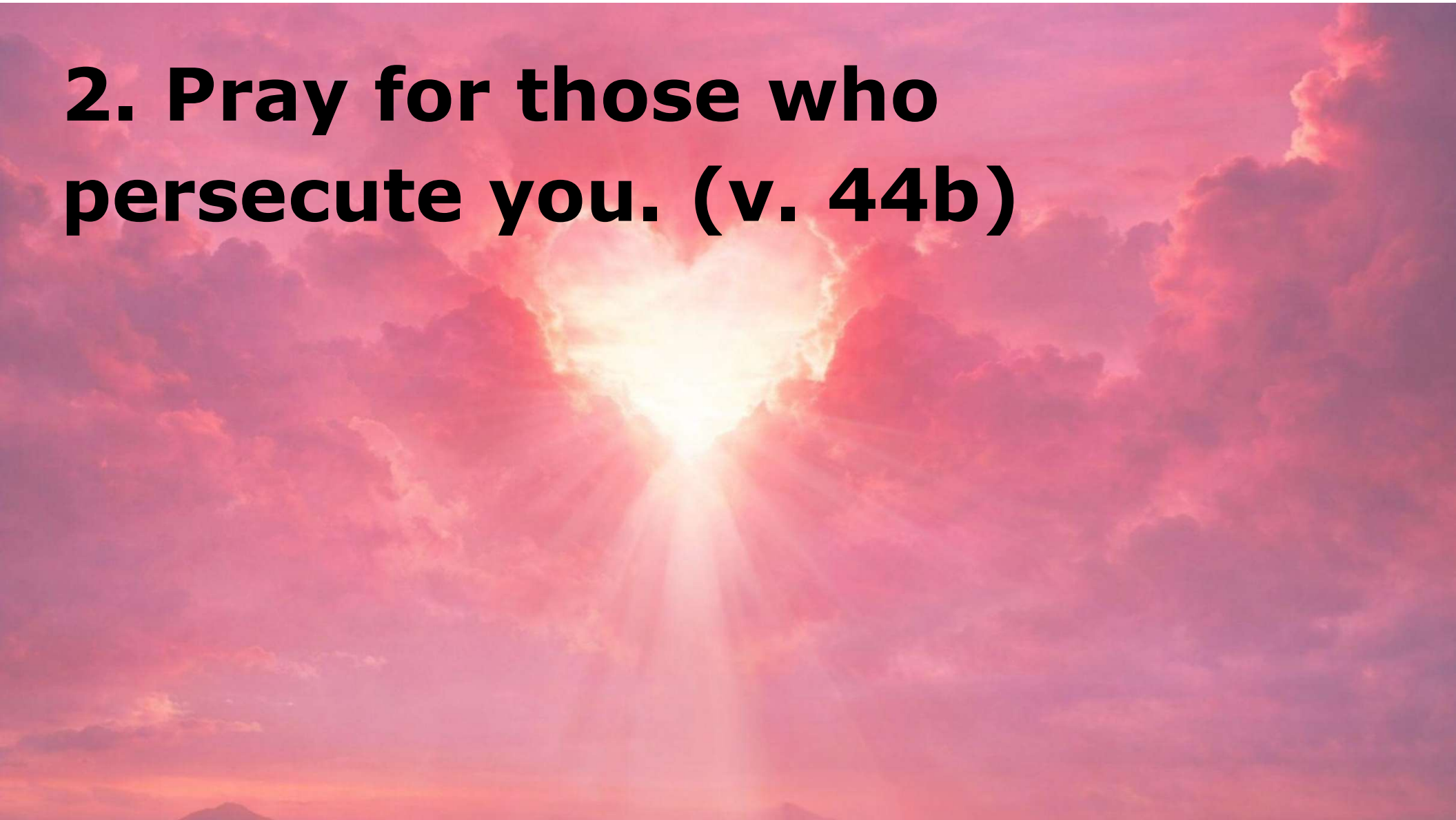
Walking in love = choosing righteous action despite hostile emotion.

Romans 12:20-21 ESV

20 "To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

**2. Pray for those who
persecute you. (v. 44b)**



Prayer is the first concrete step Jesus names.

Why prayer matters:

- It realigns your heart with God's justice and mercy.
- It hands vengeance over to God.
- It opens the door for repentance—*theirs and ours.*

You may not feel loving yet—but prayer moves you in that direction.

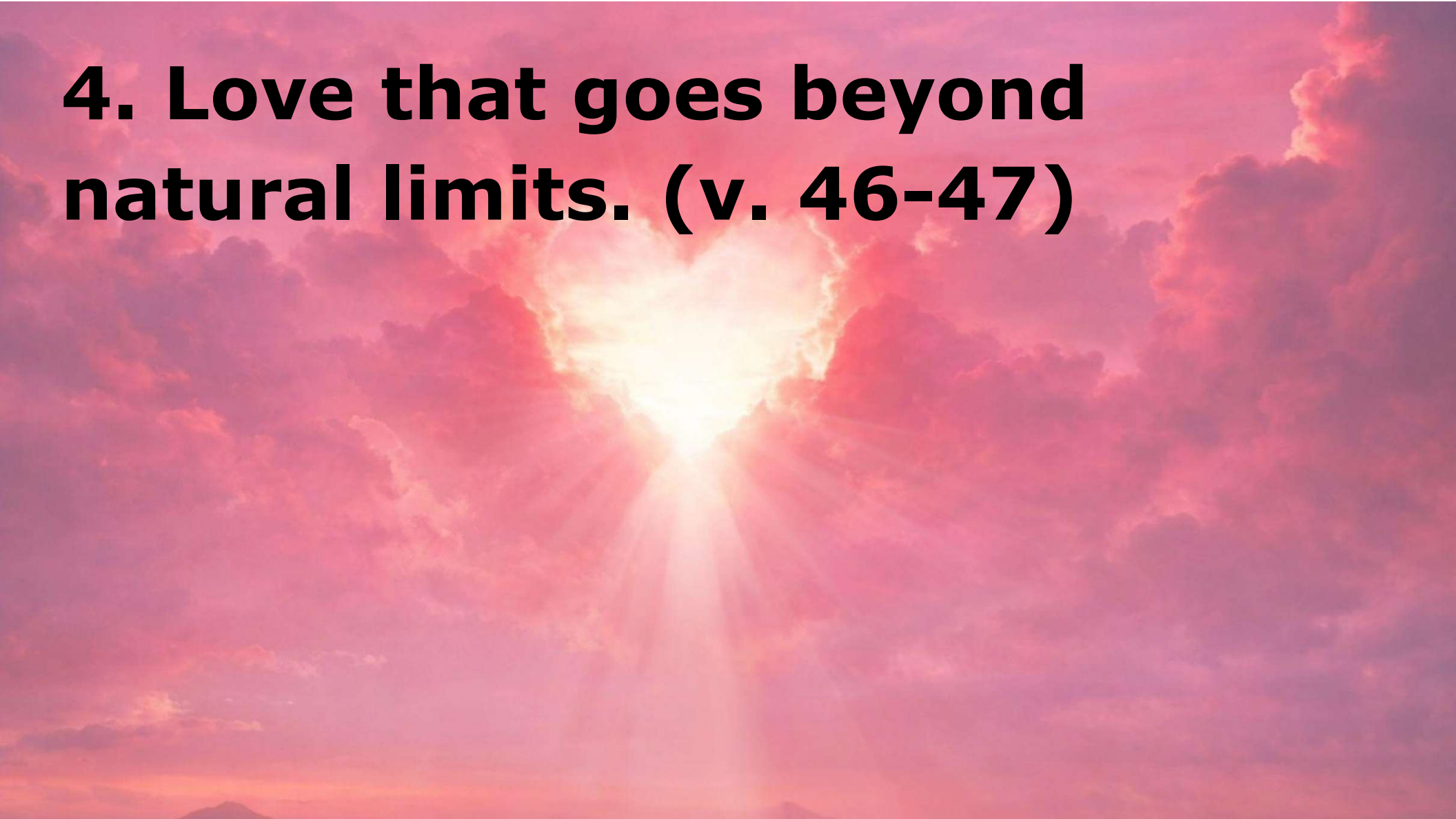
**3. Imitate the Father's
indiscriminate goodness.
(v. 45)**



Jesus grounds enemy-love in God's character. God shows **common grace** to all people—believers and unbelievers, righteous and wicked.

Walking in love means reflecting that generosity: kindness without calculating worthiness.

**4. Love that goes beyond
natural limits. (v. 46-47)**



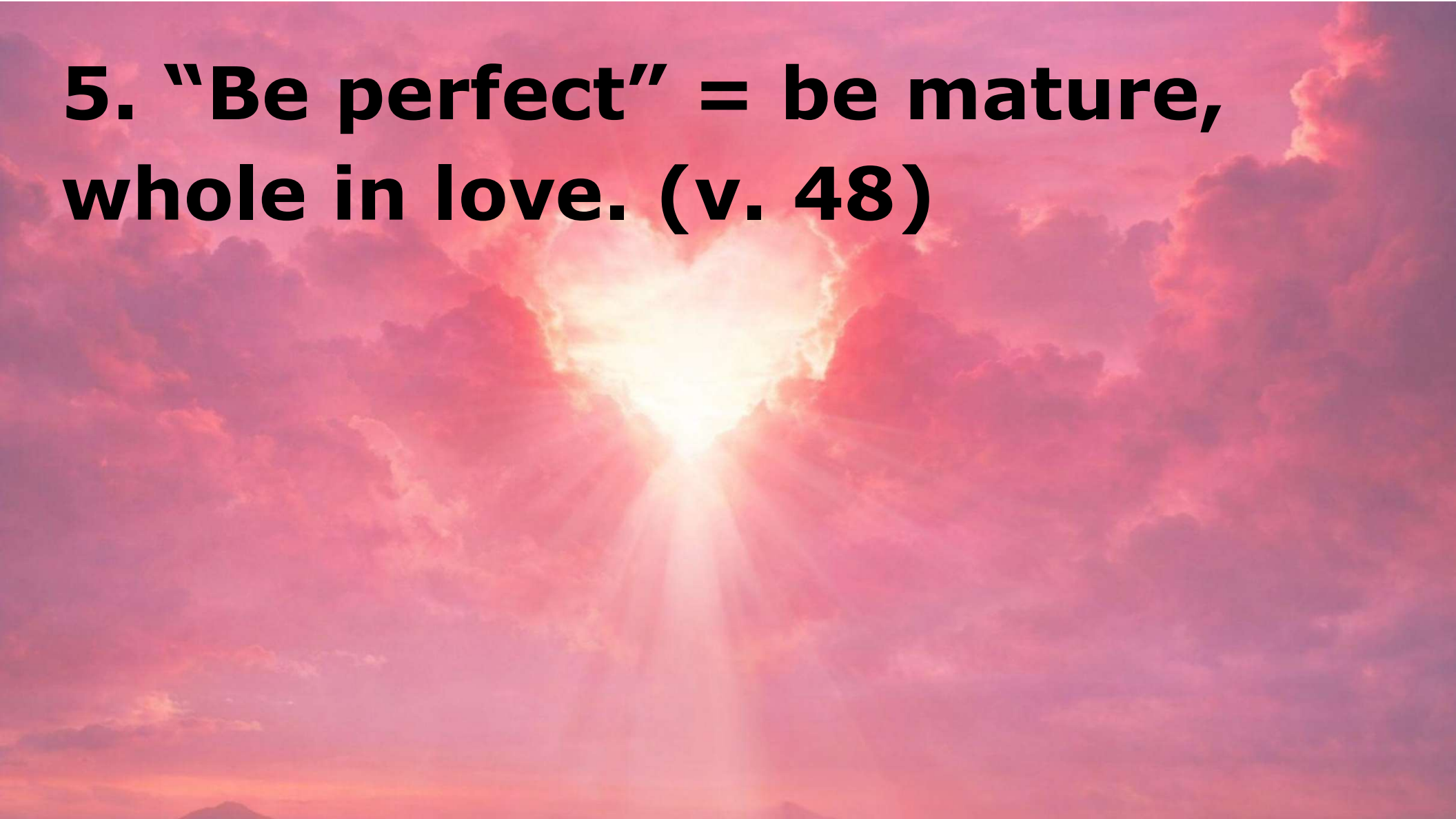
Jesus exposes “normal” love as insufficient. Even unbelievers do that.

Kingdom love goes *further*:

- Loving when there’s no return.
- Greeting those who reject you.
- Refusing to mirror hostility.

This love is supernatural, not instinctive.


**5. “Be perfect” = be mature,
whole in love. (v. 48)**



The word **perfect** (Greek *teleios*) means *complete, mature, whole*. Jesus is calling His followers to **undivided love**—not partial love, not selective love.

In context, perfection means:

- Love without exclusions.
- Mercy without conditions.
- Character shaped by the Father's heart.



John 13:35 ESV

“By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” *JESUS*



Romans 5:5 ESV

“...God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

What walking in love looks like practically:

- **Refusing revenge or bitterness.**
- **Praying honestly (even awkwardly) for those who hurt you.**
- **Doing good where you have opportunity.**
- **Trusting God with justice instead of self-protective hatred.**
- **Setting boundaries *without* hatred or malice.**

***This is not passivity or enabling evil—it's strength under God's rule.**

1 John 4:7-9 ESV

7 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.”

👉 548 is the journey from emotional love to eternal love.

God doesn't measure you by your coldest season, but by His covenant commitment.



**548 is God calling us from
momentary emotions into
mature, covenant love that
refuses to grow cold.**

Don't just check your romantic heart this week. Check your spiritual temperature.

Ask: Does my love still burn for God? Do I still forgive quickly? Do I still weep for people that don't know Him? Do I still love truth more than comfort?

Father, Thank You that Your mercy is greater than our worst moment, and Your kindness toward us is everlasting. Where our hearts have cooled, where offense has crept in, where disappointment or distraction has caused us to withdraw — breathe on us again. Rekindle first love. Heal wounded places that made us guarded.

Teach us covenant love that stays, forgives, and endures. Mature our love until it looks like Jesus — steady, sacrificial, and full of truth and grace. We surrender cold places, numb places, and tired places to You. Set our hearts on fire again, and let our love for You and for people burn strong in this hour. In Jesus' Name, Amen. ❤️ 🔥

