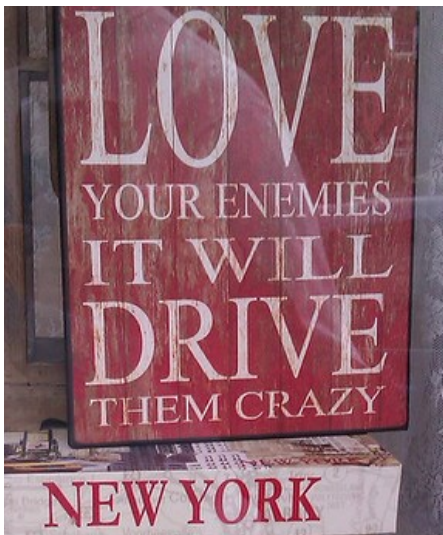


Touchstones Theme: Love

There are two basic motivating forces: fear and love. When we are afraid, we pull back from life. When we are in love, we open to all that life has to offer with passion, excitement, and acceptance. We need to learn to love ourselves first, in all our glory and our imperfections. If we cannot love ourselves, we cannot fully open to our ability to love others or our potential to create. Evolution and all hopes for a better world rest in the fearlessness and open-hearted vision of people who embrace life. *John Lennon*



Now there is a final reason I think that Jesus says, “Love your enemies.” It is this: that love has within it a redemptive power. And there is a power there that eventually transforms individuals. ...Just keep loving them, and they can’t stand it too long. Oh, they react in many ways in the beginning. They react with guilt feelings, and sometimes they’ll hate you a little more at that transition period, but just keep loving them. And by the power of your love they will break down under the load. That’s love, you see. It is redemptive, and this is why Jesus says love. There’s something about love that builds up and is creative. There is something about hate that tears down and is destructive. So love your enemies. *Martin Luther King Jr.*



Please join us in exploring the theme of Love

Photo Credits (from top to bottom)

- ♦ Love and Fear, Linda Rain 714, September 1, 2015, (CC BY 2.0), <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ocalways/20438334253>
- ♦ Love your enemies, Dunk, May 19, 2012, (CC BY 2.0), <https://www.flickr.com/photos/dullhunk/7229747508>