

People of Faith

FaIth Matters

***Loving Your Enemies***

Jesus said to love your enemies, for many of us that doesn’t seem too hard to do. We think about the person who stole from us, told us a lie, or some other transgression. But few of us will ever have to love a person who killed a love one. Ron Carlson, however, visits the Harris County Jail after work and sits across the table from the woman convicted of brutally murdering his sister with a pickax. He also ministers further to condemned inmates on death row. He shares a story about a father who forgave those who killed His son and how this Father’s love set him free from a prison of bitterness and hatred. He offers a hope found in Jesus Christ while revealing the promises of God’s Word. He spends most of his free time travelling from state to state working with an advocacy group “Journey of Hope—From Violence to Healing”. Ron shares this message, “When I consider everything Christ did for me and how He did it without hesitation, I know, as a Christian, I must try to follow His example. Criminals must be punished, but I cannot reconcile Christ’s love with more killing. None of us are perfect, but we must strive to be as much like Christ as humanly possible. That means loving your enemies, forgiving those who trespass against you and letting His light shine through you in all situations.”

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” *Romans 5:8*

[](https://openclipart.org/download/212491/the_pencil_thumb.svg) What prison are you chosing to live in?

[](https://openclipart.org/download/178410/EDU-Moodle-icons-Discussion-final.svg) Why is it important for us to love our enemies?