



helping people work well

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SOM 14 – Love or Hate at Work?

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This email continues our six-month series looking at the Sermon on the Mount from a workplace angle:

You will be a very unusual person if you never made any enemies at work at all. No matter how you behave, how naturally likeable you are someone may well take a dislike to you - be jealous or even wish you harm.

If you are a more controversial figure or an agent of change you will provoke even more hostility just by doing your job. As you read you may now be aware of those who you would call enemies or even antagonists or those with whom you have fallen out. The most natural thing in the world is to dislike or react negatively to them. Strangely, good friends can become enemies and although they once liked each other there is now enmity between them. So whether you like, loath, dislike or distance yourself from someone you may run the risk of hating them.

Jesus wants a different approach. He wants you to love your enemies. This is not affection or warm feelings, nor even friendship. This is a Christian love which cannot be found anywhere else but is a gift from the Master. Once He has poured this agape into your soul you can learn to love your enemy. It is deliberate and concerted goodwill which chooses to want the best for the person we would naturally want destroyed. It is a strong, challenging love which would even stand up to the individual but also be motivated by their interest. It is a specific mindset which refuses to become bitter and even prays for the other rather than sets out to annihilate. It is the same approach that God takes with us and is a reflection of His perfection.

If you want to be a perfectionist ,as God is, then love, don't belittle your enemies. It's hard, it's revolutionary, it's a narrow path and few even find the gate. (Matthew 5:43-48)

Work Well,

Geoff Shattock

©Geoff Shattock , 15th January 2007

Here is some Biblical background for this week's Wake Up Call

Matthew 5 v 43-48

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴

DVD news



see below

But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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- **WorkNet** is **ten** years old this year - we will be celebrating-more to follow...
- **WAKE UP CALL [ARCHIVES](#) HAS BEEN UPDATED THERE ARE NOW AROUND 200 PAST EDITIONS**
- **Worktalk DVD set - Available NOW - Order your copy of the WorkTalk DVD set now click [here](#) to order**
- Geoff Shattock is on Sabbatical from 1 September 2006 to end Feb 2007. Please pray for him over this time. You can email WorkNet on the usual addresses and you will be directed to the right people.
He has visited the US twice and visits Bahrain and Oman in early 2007-WorkTalk is catching on..
- **Wake Up Call tips** - please **don't reply** to your Wake Up Call we do not monitor that address.

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Also remember to have a look at the Bible sections for the biblical background to your Wake Up Call

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