

**April 26, 2015**

**Scripture: Matthew 5:43-48**

**“How Do I Love The Difficult Person?”**

**Sermon Series: “Questions Our Youth Are Asking”**

- 1. Question Of The Day:** There are some people that I have a tough time loving? How can I stop this and start loving them?
- 2. Small Group Discussion** (4-5 minutes): Have you struggled with loving a difficult person?; If so, what have you done?; What does the Bible have to say about this?
- 3. Scripture Reading:** Matthew 5:43-48 (Seth Schouten)
- 4. Message**

This is a great, honest question!

Some assumptions that I am making...

### **i. Who Should You Love?**

The relationship “ladder”:

- i. Family
- ii. Friend
- iii. Co-worker / Fellow Student
- iv. Neighbour
- v. Acquaintance
- vi. Stranger
- vii. The “Difficult Person”
- viii. The “Enemy” (Matthew 5:44)

Jesus said: “Love your enemy.” (a radical argument from the “least” to the “greatest”).

## **ii. What Is Love?**

Love is more than simply a choice, desire, words, actions, attitude...

**“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).**

(Christian) Love: (responding to what God has done for us in and through Jesus Christ) we love by desiring and acting for the “good” of the other person.

**“We love because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).**

## **iii. How To Love The Difficult Person?**

Getting specific...I can be a difficult person to love

## **Things that we can do to help love the difficult person:**

1. Honest with God: “I am struggling to love this person” and “ I need help to love this person”
2. Remind yourself of the gospel (Romans 5:6-8)  
You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6-8).
3. Pray this person would experience God’s “good.”
4. Pray that you would be used to help this person experience God’s good.
5. Pray and look for opportunities to (1) not slander this person in front of others [don’t do the negative] and to (2) do “good” to this person [do the positive].

**Q & A (778.895.6837)**