

LOVE WHO? THAT'S CRAZY!

MATTHEW 5:43-48 | ERIC SIMPSON | October 17, 2021

"Community is the place where the person you least want to live with always lives."

– Henri Nouwen

Matthew 5:43-48

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children 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 own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

What – what Jesus is saying?

Who – who is Jesus saying this to?

How – how do we live this out today?

- WHAT

Galatians 3:21

...For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.

"Likewise, when I treasure those around me and see them as God's creatures designed for his eternal purposes, I do not make an additional point of not hating them or calling them twerps or fools. Not doing those things is simply part of the package...On the other hand, not going to London or Atlanta is a poor plan for going to New York. And not being wrongly angry and so on is a poor plan for treating people with love."

– Dallas Willard

love = agape = to will the good of another, it is about action, it is a choice-word

Say yes to the God-impulse and no to the reciprocity-impulse.

Who is my neighbor? Everyone, even your enemies.

- WHO

Matthew 5:45

that you may be children of your Father in heaven...

children of God = reflect inner essence of their Father, self-sacrifice for the good of others

- HOW

Matthew 5:45

...He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 5:48 - Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

perfect = teleios = to fully realize the purpose for which it was planned and designed

How does a person grow as a disciple?

