



COMMUNITY GROUP NOTES + QUESTIONS

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES | OCTOBER 18, 2020

MATTHEW 5:43-48

GUEST SPEAKER: CURTIS FROISLAND

02

INTRODUCTION

Icebreakers: When has your child done something that has reminded you of yourself? What is something that one of your parents said that you find yourself saying often? Which parent do you tend to resemble the most?

If someone asked you how you imitate God, how would you respond? Before Sunday would you have thought that loving your enemy was a way that we were called to imitate God or would you have just simply called it a command we are supposed to follow?

How have you grappled with this idea of loving your enemies recently or in the past? How has that helped you to gain a new perspective on the Gospel?

“If we are going to understand Jesus, if we are going to understand God’s character, if we are going to understand the Gospel - the grace of God extended to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus - then we have to grapple with this idea of God’s love for his enemies and the calling on us to love our enemies”

Curtis Froisland

03

CURTIS FROISLAND

“When God says love your enemies He’s not asking you to do something that He Himself hasn’t done for the uttermost”

**WE ARE CALLED TO A THE DEEPER
RIGHTEOUSNESS OF LOVING OUR ENEMIES****MATTHEW 5:43-44**

Common Sense Righteousness (“Love your neighbor and hate your enemy”) makes us the standard of who deserves to be loved, how does this go against the Gospel?

If Common Sense Righteousness (“Love your neighbor and hate your enemy”) demonstrates self-centeredness then would you say that the Deeper Righteousness (“Love Your enemies”), that Jesus calls us to, demonstrates selflessness? In what ways?

Was it helpful for you to hear that loving your neighbor didn’t mean having the warm and fuzzies for that person but to be committed to the good of him/her? Does this definition of love help you to be more open to loving your enemies? Why or why not?

Jesus understood that this would be a challenge and a risk - The challenge is to take the risk so that you could better understand his love for you - have you ever taken the risk of loving and “enemy”? If you have, how did it influence your understanding of God’s love for you?

Jesus called peacemakers and those that love their enemies Sons of God, how are these two qualities related? How does demonstrating these help you to get a glimpse into the flourishing kingdom life that Jesus describes in the Sermon On The Mount?

04

WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE THE PEOPLE WE LEAST WANT TO LOVE

MATTHEW 5:43-47

In today's world, who would be our "persecutors, evil, unjust, tax collectors, and gentiles"? Those that we as Christians feel the most justified in hating and those that we least want to love?

How does our righteousness hold up to the world's righteousness? Are we doing the same as the "tax collectors and gentiles"?

Have you ever had a conversation with someone who had radically differing opinions or beliefs than you? Did that conversation turn into friendship or division? If it turned to division, what would you have done differently?

“How is that person that you look at as an enemy ever going to know that God is one who loves his enemy if you refuse to love your enemy; how will they ever come to know the God that we know through Jesus Christ, our Father who sends rain on the just and unjust; how will they ever come to know him if we who claim to be His sons and daughters don't love our enemy, don't love them.”

Curtis Froisland

05

WE ARE CALLED TO A WHOLE LIFE COMMITMENT TO IMITATE GOD AND LOVE OUR ENEMIES

MATTHEW 5:48

God is who he says he is and so when we imitate him - our perfection is demonstrated by our authenticity - being the same on the outside as we are on the inside.

In what areas of your life do you struggle to be authentic?

Loving our enemies doesn't come naturally - what are some steps that we can take to make this more of a habit?

How does the Gospel "that God does even more than send rain and sun on the just and unjust alike. He sent his Son into the world, when we were, as Paul says, alienated and hostile to God - enemies. Jesus came into our world, and he went to the cross while his enemies reviled him struck him, and persecuted him, and He loved them, and us to the end"(Curtis Foisland) empower you to commit to loving your enemies as a radical expression of your devotion and thankfulness to the God who loved you in the same way?

"When we come to faith in Jesus Christ He offers us His righteousness and he also gives us his Spirit which changes our heart and gives us new birth, begins to recreate us from the inside out and what Jesus is saying when he says be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect is let that work of new creation happen, participate with God, continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, be a person who loves your enemy since you know that God has loved you as an enemy, be the same on the outside as you claim to be or as you are because of God's work on the inside."

Curtis Foisland.