

## HOW TO LOVE OTHERS AS OUR GOD LOVES US!

Matthew 5:38-48

INTRODUCTION: To love in this world as God loves us we must allow our Lord Jesus to do three things for us: 1. Jesus Must Transform Our Thinking! 2. We must allow Jesus Christ to increase our friendships 3, We must allow Jesus Christ to Perfect Our Hearts!

### I. ALLOW JESUS CHRIST TO TRANSFORM OUR THINKING!

Many who claim to be Christians have trouble making the Word of God their number one source of authority for their lives. This is especially true in the area of how we treat people who are unlike us. Many long to change the Word of God to match up with their thinking rather than to change their way of thinking to line up with God's Word. Matthew 5:3. The teaching of the Pharisees was not in line with the clear teaching of the Word of God. Leviticus 19:18. The Pharisees not only deleted from the Word of God they also added to the Word of God. Proverbs 25:21-22. The Bible tells us as Christ's disciples to love everyone! James 2:1-9. Our Lord has issued the Royal Law according to the Scriptures: James 2:8 Remember, when we were without hope and enemies of God, through the blood of Jesus Christ, God made me a son of God! Romans 5:10-11.

### II. ALLOW JESUS CHRIST TO INCREASE YOUR FRIENDSHIPS!

Matthew 5:43-45. One of our greatest witnesses for Jesus Christ is not always with our lips; it is how we treat those who are sometimes hard to love! Matthew 5:10-12. Our world says love those who love you, but our God says love those who hate you and misuse you! John 15:18-19. Remember you cannot choose how people respond to you, but you do get to choose how you respond to them! The Bible teaches four kinds of love: 1. "Eros" is sexual attraction. 2. "Storge" is natural affection of family. 3. "Phileo" brotherly love, friendship. 4. "Agape" is God's love, unconditional love! When we allow God to transform our thinking we begin to show agape love for others. Agape love is selfless in nature and He shows that love even to those who do not love or obey Him.

### III. ALLOW JESUS CHRIST TO PERFECT YOUR HEART!

Matthew 5:47-48. Do you get a little nervous when you are told to be perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect? That word perfect" in this verse is "teleios." It means to have your aim to have your goal to become mature and grow up to be like your Lord. Do you know that God's will for your life is to be spiritually mature? Ephesians 4:11-16. We are to become like our Lord Jesus. John 13:34-35