

Loving like Jesus

“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.”
(Matthew 5:43-48)

Jesus was not politically correct. He never went out of His way to say what people wanted to hear. In fact (as in the passage above), it seemed as if He was trying to antagonize the people who had left everything to follow Him.

As in our day, there were countless groups of people who had little love for the Jews. And even among the Jews, there were sects at war with one another. If you were a Jew, you had to constantly be on guard against an attack from your blindside. So when Jesus told His followers that they had to not only love their neighbors but also their enemies, it was almost too hard to hear.

The Lord has raised up City Church to represent Him in Moore and the surrounding communities. We know that, at some point, we are going to have to leave the comfort and security of our campus and go out into our neighborhood. The problem we are going to encounter is that many of those people would prefer we stay in our building and out of their business. The tool Jesus ordained for tearing down those obstacles is love.

Our programs and meetings are designed to help us grow in Christlikeness. Then, having become mature, to go out into the world and put Jesus on display. Next week, we will begin talking about serving our city. We have big dreams that we are asking God to fulfill. All of them will be built on the foundation of Jesus loving people through us.

Step one: Love people.

Pray

Heavenly Father, I am continually running into my need to be molded. I am pretty good at loving people who love me, but I struggle loving the people who make me uncomfortable. Thank you for not giving up on me. I submit myself to Your love and I know that you will transform me there.

DAY **14**
Sunday, January 21st

RECURRING NEEDS

Revival
Repentance
Wisdom
Marriages
Families
Sick/Grieving
Depression/Mental illness
City Church
Church leaders
Children
Youth
Singles
Senior citizens
Volunteers
Teachers and support staff
Emergency personnel
Business community
Elected officials
Missionaries
Worldwide church
The lost

REFLECTIONS
