

J Walking Sermon Series
Part #5 – Loving the Unlovable**Matthew 5:43-48****1 John 2:6** – Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.**Series Summary**

The purpose of this series is to help each Christian establish a solid foundation in order to passionately pursue God. We will study through the Sermon on the Mount, picking up from the teachings of Christ immediately following the Beatitudes. We will focus on the basic components of walking with Jesus, like Jesus, and for Jesus. This series is needed for every new Christian and for people who want to refresh their walk with the Lord.

Big Idea – Authentic Love Gives Glory to God**Main Passage**

Matthew 5:43-48 – ⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
⁴⁴But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be sons 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. ⁴⁶If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Loving the Unlovable**Section #1 – Love Corrupted: Recognize it and Flee from It**

- **Leviticus 19:18** – You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
- **Psalm 119:11** – I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
- **Key Point** – The key point that we examine in this text comes to us from verses 43-44 as we witness Jesus directly point out the corruption of the religious leaders of the day. The religious leaders were notorious for adding to the law and making it more cumbersome and they based their personal righteousness upon fulfillment of laws instead of an authentic humble faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus points out in six illustrations from verses 21-43 as to what it means for God's people to be righteous in God's eyes (surpassing the righteousness of the Pharisees). The last illustration given is that of Love. Christ points out in these few verses how mankind has corrupted God's definition of love and emphasizes that true definition that leads to righteousness.
- **How did the religious leaders in New Testament times corrupt this commandment?**
- **How has love been corrupted today?**
- **Who is your neighbor?**

Section #2 – Love Defined: Embrace it and Apply It

- **Romans 13:8-10**
- **Romans 12:14-21**
- **Luke 23:34**
- **Key Point** – The key point that we examine in this text comes to us from verses 44-47. Jesus carefully and masterfully defines what true love looks like in the life of a Christian. This is a

message that needs to be desperately heard today for love has been so corrupted even in our own culture.

- **How is love defined in this text?**
- **How is love defined in other areas of the Bible?**
- **What does the application of authentic love look like in the life of a Christian?**

Section #3 – The Fruit of Authentic Love = Glory of God

- **Matthew 5:45**
- **Ephesians 5:1**
- **Key Point** – The key point that we examine in this text comes to us from verses 45,48. Jesus ends this illustration by proclaiming that learning to love your neighbor as well as your enemy is not about the other person or even yourself. Authentically loving others is meant to bring and show the Glory of God to the world.
- **Why have we been commanded to love as Christ has loved us?**
 - **1 John 4:19** – We love because he first loved us.
- **What is the real purpose of loving others?**

Memory Verse

- **Matthew 5:44** – But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Application

J Walk Challenge – Take the J Walking Challenge through this sermon series. Begin this new year by learning to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. **Step #1** – Through this sermon series read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) at least once every two days. **Step #2** – Write down or journal what God is showing you through this study. **Step #3** – Pray about how God wants you to apply His Word that you are learning about and then apply it in your everyday life.

CICERO CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1715 Stringtown Pike / Cicero, Indiana 46034 / 317.984.4653
reachteachserve.org

