

“Grace is always needed, always on time,
and always powerful to move towards God’s
agenda for human relationships”

PULPIT CURRICULUM

GRACE WHEN ITS HARDEST TO LOVE

Matthew 5:38-48

1. REVIEW

Use the space below to list some ways God has shown grace to you personally.

Read Matthew 5:38-48. Why do you think we must we show grace to those who are hardest for us to love?

What makes someone hard to love or easy to love? Which are you?

2. ASSESS

God loves without playing favorites, without personal benefit, without personal comfort, and without personal exemption. Which one of these is most significant to you? Which one of these is hardest for you to show to others?

Where are you tempted to allow bitterness to creep into your life?

3. APPLY

Who is the person who is hardest for you to love? What are you going to do this week to show love to that person?

What are some specific things you can do to grow in grace and mercy with all people this week?



Prayer 3 of 11

God, you have withheld nothing from us. You've freely given us your love, your promises, your very life . Stir our hearts to the core, that we may cheerfully give you all that we have. Help us become more and more like you as we give you more and more in worship, in service, in witness and in love.

SERMON NOTES & QUOTES

- 1A) Mercy is love doing nothing when offended. James 2:13
- 2A) Grace is unmerited favor from God. John 1:14-17
 - 1b) Grace in creation. Titus 2:11
 - 2b) Grace in salvation. Ephesians 2:8, 9
- 3b) Grace in trial. Hebrews 12:15
- 4b) Grace in sanctification. Acts 20:32
- 3A) Grace is continuing to love even when offended. Matthew 5:38-48
 - 1b) The grace of being vulnerable to further injury. vv. 38, 39
 - 2b) The grace of giving more than law demands. v. 41
- 3b) The grace of going further than I thought I could. v. 42
 - 4b) The grace of prayer for those who wish me harm. vv. 43, 44
 - 5b) The grace of loving as your heavenly Father does. vv. 45-48
 - 1c) Without playing favorites. v. 45
 - 2c) Without personal benefit. v. 46
 - 3c) Without personal comfort. v. 47
 - 4c) Without personal exemption. v. 48

MY GROUP'S COMMITMENTS

5 DAY READING PLAN

DAY 1

John 13:34

DAY 2

Acts 20:32-35

DAY 3

Hebrews 12:14-15

DAY 4

Ephesians 4:29-32

DAY 5

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

To learn more about studying the Bible, look for the "Essentials of Growing in Christ" class starting soon at your campus.