



## Loving Hard to Love People

8.11.21

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. 1 John 4:11 (NLT)

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." –Jesus, Matthew 5:43-44 (NIV)

Loving hard to love people means...

## ...becoming a more loving person

I pray that your love will overflow more and more. Philippians 1:9

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness... Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

## ...giving up my rights

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to not wear a mask, but another, wears a mask. The one who does not wear a mask must not treat with contempt the one who does, and the one who does wear a mask everything must not judge the one who does not, for God has accepted them. If your brother or sister is distressed because of a mask, you are no longer acting in love. Romans 14:1-4, 15

## ...doing something loving

If you encounter your enemy's stray ox or donkey, you must return it to him. If you see the donkey of one who hates you fallen under its load, do not leave it there; you must help him with it. Deuteronomy 23:4-5

## Something happens...

"There is kind of love that creates value." -John Ortberg

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 1 John 3:16 (NIV)

As we live in God our love becomes more perfect. 1 John 4:17

## Talk it Over! For my thoughts and LifeGroup\*

Complete this sentence:

"I really have trouble loving people who are \_\_\_\_\_"

1 John 4:8-21 is an incredible passage on love.

What does it say about God's love to us?

What's it saying about our love to each other?

If someone were to ask how they could become a more 'loving person, what would you say?"

Read Romans 14:1-15. What's the situation? What's it saying to you about rights and giving them up? What are some modern day examples of this kind of behavior?

How does "doing something loving" generate love? Share a time when your actions toward another actually drew you closer.

What does it mean to say, "Love creates value"? How does that play out in life?

\*A LifeGroup is a group of people who are committed to loving each other and growing through times like these. For more information, connect with Pastor Len at len@marinerscc.org