

discussion guide for May 27th

“EXTREME MAKEOVER-Week 7”

Changed By Christ’s Toughest Words – Limitless Love

Matthew 5:43-48 (p. 1255-DSB*)

GRIND IT
BREW IT
DRINK IT
SAVOR IT



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

➤ **GRIND IT** (11:00 am)

Don't most people have limits on love? Surely it's only natural and therefore right, right? From the list, check limits on love you would be tempted to have.

I can love every person unless:

- They are threatening my family or me with violence.
 - They cheat me out of my life savings and mock me when I confront them.
 - They are influencing my son or daughter to take drugs.
 - They are part of a terrorist organization bent on destroying my way of life.
 - They are trying to lead someone I love (a child, or a brother or sister) into a homosexual lifestyle.
 - They cut me off in traffic & make an obscene gesture.
 - They get drunk and kill someone I love with their car.
 - They criticize me and try to ruin my reputation.
- *Is it possible to love a person and protect yourself against their harmful actions at the same time?*

*“DSB”=Discovery Study Bibles on common ground tables.

➤ **BREW IT** (11:10 am)

Jesus took old standards of behavior and raised them to a new level. His formula *“you have heard it said . . .but I say. . .”* applied to anger, sex, divorce, honesty, and retaliation. He wraps up this section of teaching with a new standard on showing limitless love.

1. In Mt. 5:43, (p. 1255, DSB*) what was the commonly understood standard for loving others? How did people define “neighbor”? Was this a human interpretation of God’s original intention? Why? (See Lev. 19:18, p.148, DSB*)
2. Pastor Tom said “neighbor” really means “kingdom neighbor.” What do Gal. 6:10 (p.1556, DSB*), and 1 Pet. 2:17 (p.1638, DSB*) teach us about a higher standard of love for our kingdom neighbors (fellow Christians)?
3. In Mt. 5:44, (p. 1255, DSB*) how did Jesus define love for those who follow Him? Is it possible for a Christian soldier in wartime to obey Christ’s command while obeying a human command to kill the enemy? Why? Why not? How?
4. In Mt. 5:45-47, (p. 1255, DSB*) Jesus explains the need to love without limits. What does Jesus promise that limitless love will produce in the eyes of the world?
5. In Mt. 5:48, (p. 1255, DSB*) Jesus summed up life’s “extreme makeover” and established the overall standard of behavior He desires for His followers. When can we relax? What are your thoughts/ reactions about such a high expectation for your life?

*“DSB”=Discovery Study Bibles on common ground tables.

C
O
m
m
o
n
g
r
o
u
n
d

➤ DRINK IT (11:40 am)

Jesus raised the standard in six areas of behavior for those who find and follow Him. In the final verse He summarized His expectations with the word “perfect.” Is God convicting you to make changes in your attitudes or actions? Give yourself a rating, and then write any step of obedience you sense God is leading you to take.

World’s Standard (Acceptable Behavior) “You Have Heard It Said. . .”	Jesus’ Standard (Perfection) “But I Say. . .”
---	--

Do not murder 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Don’t be angry

Do not commit adultery 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Don’t lust

Divorce is legal 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Marriage is sacred

Don’t break oaths 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Integrity in everything

Eye for an eye 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Don’t retaliate

Love my neighbor 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Love my enemy

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Pray for the commitments expressed above.
- Prayer needs of people outside the group.
- Prayer needs of members in the group.
- Pray for absentees by name. Consider giving _____ a call this afternoon.

Go Deeper: Use the “*Savor*” section of this guide in your daily quiet time this week. If you would prefer receiving a daily e-mail, [Sign up for “The Daily Cup” e-mail devotions: herb@hbcaustin.org](#)

C
O
m
m
o
n
g
r
o
u
n
d

➤ SAVOR IT (all week long)**

Last week you discussed Jesus’ higher standard of love for those who follow Him. These readings and questions will help reinforce what you discovered.

Monday, May 28: Read John 13:34-35, (p. 1418-DSB*). What kind of commandment did Jesus say this was? Who are the “one anothers” in this verse? What is the reason given for loving one another in the same way Jesus loved us?

Tuesday, May 29: Read Luke 6:32-36, (p.1345-DSB*). Why does Jesus want us to express love to our enemies? Can you think of any person you need to love in this way? What can you do for them?

Wednesday, May 30: Read 1 Peter 3:8-13, (p. 1639-DSB*). What should we do when we are insulted? What is the secret for those who love life and who want to see good days? How does vs. 13 inspire you?

Thursday, May 31: Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, (p. 1629-DSB*). List all the things love is not. List all the things love is. This passage is read a lot at weddings, but doesn’t it have a broader application than marriage? Can these truths about love be applied to our enemies as well? What is God saying to you?

Friday, June 1: Read 1 Peter 2:11-12, (p. 1638-DSB*). What is an alien? What is a stranger in this world? Do you love the things of this life too much? Does this increase the threat of someone taking them away from you?

**“DSB”=Discovery Study Bibles on common ground tables.

**To subscribe to “The Daily Cup” email devotions, use the card on common ground tables, or e-mail herb@hbcaustin.org.