

**You want me to do what?!?!
How can you expect me to do *that*?**

x6 Contrasts (Sermon on the Mount):

- *Murder/Anger*
- *Adultery/Lust*
- *Divorce*
- *Oaths*

Final 2 Contrasts:

- *Eye for an eye/Turn the other cheek*
- *Love ... your enemy*

→ The “Driver” or “Source” of Behavior:

- *Anger*
- *Unmet expectations (marriage)*
- *Fantasized desire (i.e. lust)*
- *My rights; what I am ‘owed’*
- *Duty; what’s required/expected*

Matthew 5:46-47

For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Don’t **even the tax collectors** do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet **only** your brothers and sisters, what are you doing **out of the ordinary**? Don’t **even the Gentiles** do the same?

I Corinthians 3:4 (NLT)

When one of you says, “I am a follower of Paul,” and another says, “I follow Apollos,” aren’t you **acting just like people of the world**?

Kingdom people have a different **driver (source) that produces Kingdom **behavior**.**

Matthew 5:43-45a

“You have heard that it was said, ‘*Love your neighbor*’ and ‘*hate your enemy*.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, **love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be **children of your Father in heaven** ...

Matthew 5:48

Be **perfect**, therefore, as your **heavenly Father** is perfect.

God’s children//Kingdom people **love like the Father **loves**.**

In a sense, we are ALL loving people (*tax collectors, Gentiles, etc.*).

- The way the world loves VS the love of the Father

The World's Love (or ordinary people):

- Loves until ... *let down, betrayed, forsaken, disappointed, etc.*
- Love for ... *a return, a reciprocal response, etc.*

The Love of God:

- Has no limit or boundary; endless
- Is not determined by “love-ability”
- Is not calculating and cautious (like ours).
- *Free & unrestrained*

God's love is **uncaused and undeserved**.

Romans 5:8 (NLT)

But God showed His **great love for us** by sending Christ to die for us while we were **still** sinners.

Awareness of our lack of “love-ability” (unloveliness) is what helps us know and experience the endless love of God.

If we believe we are “love-able” to a degree, we could feel loved to a degree but we’ve never be astonished nor transformed by how loved we are.

Ephesians 3:17-19 (CSB)

... I pray that you, being **rooted** and **firmly established in love**,¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth **of God's love**,¹⁹ and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be **filled with all the fullness of God**.

Acknowledging our **sinfulness & messiness actually **awakens** us to be transformed and satisfied by God's **love** ...**

→ ... and then to offer that love to others.

Matthew 5:45b

... For **He causes His sun** to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

What makes us not ordinary (= *Kingdom people*) is that the **love we love with** is NOT controlled by the **object, expectation or response**.

The **love we love with** is controlled by our **will/heart**, which has joyfully surrendered to the full reality of God and His Kingdom.

Matthew 5:38-42

“You have heard that it was said, ‘*An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.*’³⁹ But I tell you, don’t resist an evildoer. On the contrary, if anyone **slaps you** on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.⁴⁰ As for the one who wants to sue you and take away your shirt, **let him have your coat** as well.⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, **go with him two**.⁴² **Give** to the one who asks you, and don’t turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Our world is NO longer defined or controlled by our **rights, reputation, trauma/pain, or enemies**.

We automatically act and re-act out of the **soil** in which we are **rooted**.

Matthew 5:43-45a

“You have heard that it was said, ‘*Love your neighbor*’ and ‘*hate your enemy.*’⁴⁴ But I tell you, **love** your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ so that you may be **children of your Father in heaven** ...

Identify **blockages** to God’s love ...

1) Look at the **evidence** of our lives:

- a) **Suffering**
- b) **Sin & folly**

My life does **not disprove** God’s love; the **life of Jesus** proves it!

Identify **blockages** to God’s love ...

2) From whom are you **withholding** God’s love:

- a. **Yourself?**
- b. **Your enemy?** The **one miler?**

2 Thessalonians 3:5 (ESV)

May the Lord direct your hearts to the **love of God** and to the steadfastness of Christ.