

# INFLUENCER.

Jesus' counter cultural guidebook

Guideline #4 **Jesus LOVED everyone. Period!** Matt. 5:43-48

The end game is not a lack of **HATING**, but an abundance of **LOVING** vs. 43-44

No **REDACTING**, adding, or **REDEFINING** allowed  
Matt. 22:35-40; Lev. 19:17-18

We **ACT OUT & REQUEST** God's goodness for all people vs. 44

'love' = an **EMOTIVE ACTION**, what is best for the other person

'pray' = asking for **GOD'S** best to be upon them

We **WITNESS** God acting this out every day everywhere vs. 45

God **CAUSES** the goodness

God uses His **POSSESSIONS** as the goodness

God **DISTRIBUTES** His goodness equally

'on the evil' as an **INVITATION** to His goodness

'on the good' as a **REWARD** of His goodness

'sons of your Father' - We are to be just like **HIM!**

We act out God's **KINDNESS** and mercy upon all people vs. 46-48

We **ACT OUT** emotive, active love to all people Luke 6:27-38

We *greet* (receive **JOYFULLY**) all people

This is the **ATTAINABLE STANDARD** set for us!

## Prayer for this week:

*Dear God, Please change my heart toward people that are different from me, against me, or have hurt me. Give me a heart that feels and acts out Your kindness, mercy, and compassion toward them. Forgive me for not loving these people the way You love them. Mold my heart to be like Yours. I pray Your will be done in their lives, that they would receive Your best. Help me, that when I see them, I will receive them because I love them like You love them. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

**Auburn Grace Community Church – July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

## Life Group Discussion Questions – July 18, 2021

**Matthew 5:43-44** "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."

### DISCOVER (read Matthew 5:43-48)

1. Where in the Old Testament did the phrase "Love your neighbor" come from? Where did "hate your enemy" come from? Who were the enemies of the Jews at that time? What justification did they have for hating their enemies?
2. How would have the religious establishment of the ordinary Jew defined who his neighbor was? Was disregarding the needs of a neighbor viewed as righteous and acceptable behavior? Explain.

### EXPLORE

1. In what ways did David's love for King Saul foreshadow Christ's admonition to love our enemies? (see 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles) Can you identify other biblical examples of people loving their enemies?
2. In Matthew 5:43, Jesus referenced Leviticus 19:18. Why He did not also say to "love your neighbor as yourself"?
3. Why does Jesus talk about God's common grace to mankind in verse 45? What does this have to do with us showing love?

### EXPERIENCE

1. Who are your "enemies" or rather, what kinds of people do you find it consistently difficult to show love to? Make a list and keep it in your bible for repeated referral. Do not ascribe names. God knows who they are.
2. Like the Pharisees, many bible-believing Christians have tendencies to restructure God's Word, making His mandates fit what they want them to mean. What are the most common ways that we "edit" or "add to" the commands of the Lord? What are the pitfalls of narrowly defining the Scriptures?
3. The more you pray for those you have a difficult time with, the more God will give you a heart to love them. Discuss how this works. In what other ways can you show that you love them?
4. "I love them. I just don't like them." How does this clash with our mandate to love our enemies?

### PRAY/ACTION

Pray... Dear God, please change my heart for people that are different than me, against me, or have hurt me. Give me a heart that feels and acts out Your kindness, mercy and compassion towards them. Forgive me for not loving these people the way You love them. Mold my heart to be like Yours. I pray Your will be done in their lives, that they would receive Your best. Help me that when I see them, I will receive them because I love them the way You love them. In Jesus' name, amen.

Action... Who (what enemy) will you continually pray God's best over them? How do you intend to show them the love of Christ when you see them? Be specific.



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## Counter Cultural Guidebook

Live a life of influence  
by following the  
example of Jesus.



# DEEP

**Discover.** WHAT WAS SAID? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

**Explore.** HOW DO THE PRINCIPLES TAUGHT RELATE TO MY LIFE?

**Experience.** WHEN HAVE I EXPERIENCED THIS? OR HOW CAN I?

**Pray.** WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR FROM THIS TEACHING?

1. **DISCOVER.** CONTEXT

Review the main points from the message. Who were the people involved? What was the setting or situation?

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2. **DISCOVER.** WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT JESUS?

What characteristic about Jesus stood out to you?

What passages or points from the message support your statement?

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What was Jesus doing? or what has He done? What passages or points from the message support your statement?

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What is important to Jesus? What does He value?  
What passages or points from the message support  
your statement?

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3. **DISCOVER.** HOW SHOULD YOU LIVE BASED ON WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED?

Was there anything in the message that caused you to be  
concerned? What do you need to know or be aware of?

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Were there any instructions in the message? Is there anything  
you need to do?

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Were any promises spoken about that you can count on?  
What were they?

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4. **EXPLORE.** How does this message relate to you personally?  
Why do you think it's important?

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**EXPERIENCE.** How have you experienced what was taught?  
If you don't have an experience that relates, what can you  
do to gain experience?

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5. **PRAY.** What are you grateful for from this teaching?

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**INFLUENCER.**

Priorities

Allegiance

Perspective

Attitude

Strength

Fuel