



“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, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:43-48
NRSV

“Loving Difficult People”

February 17, 2019

*Beloved, since God loved us so much,
we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11*

Problem: We don’t know how to appropriately love our _____.

Different Kinds of People

-We all oscillate between being a _____, _____, or _____ person.

Wise Person

-Adjust _____ to the truth.

Whoever heeds life-giving _____
will be at home among the wise.

Proverbs 15:31 (NIV)

-How to Love: Stay _____ to wise people (Proverbs 13:20).

Foolish Person

-Adjust the _____ to fit them.

-_____ of the foolish include defensiveness, refusal, and externalization.

Don’t _____ to the stupidity of a fool;
you’ll only look foolish yourself.

Proverbs 26:4 (The Message)

-How to Love: _____, _____, and _____.

-_____ and _____ are not boundaries!

-_____ draw the line between acceptable and
unacceptable behavior in order to stay in relationship with me.

Evil Person

-Evil is to “will the _____ for or to someone else.”

-_____ of evil people include abuse seeking to inflict physical
and/or emotional harm.

-How to Love: Even more _____, _____, and _____.

When the young man heard this word,
he went _____ grieving, for he had many possessions.

Matthew 19:20-22 (NRSV)

-What _____ allow is what will continue.

-Is there hope for a foolish or evil person? _____

Action Steps

-_____ for your enemies.

-Set _____ and _____ in order to love better.