



Matthew 5:43-45 (NIV) <sup>43</sup>You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." <sup>44</sup>But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

### Why Are Some People So Hard to Love?

1. **Because Their Hearts Are \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*They repay me evil for good and leave my soul forlorn. (Psalm 35:12)*
2. **Because Their Hearts Are \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me. (Psalm 109:22)*
3. **Because Their Hearts Are \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*Jesus was "...grieved by the hardness of their hearts..." (Mark 3:5, NKJV)*  
*But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man unclean." (Matthew 15:18)*

### How Can I Love People Who Are Hard to love?

1. **Discover the \_\_\_\_\_ Behind Why They Are Hard to Love.**  
*A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue. (Proverbs 11:12)*
2. **Lower Your \_\_\_\_\_.** (Example: Luke 22:34)
3. **Depend on a Different \_\_\_\_\_ of Love.**  
*Dear Friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)*  
*As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one." (Romans 3:10)*
4. **See Your Difficult Relationships as an \_\_\_\_\_ to Learn to Love Like Jesus.** (Matthew 5:43-45)

### Want to Go Deeper?

- Memorize Matthew 5:44.
- Continue saying the two great commandments every morning and every evening this week. Make every decision in light of loving God and loving others.
- On the tear-off section of your program, fill in the blank: "I want prayer for my relationship with \_\_\_\_\_."
- If you are ready to accept God's invitation to a new life, let us know and we will help you with next steps.
- Read *Love is a Decision* by Gary Smalley.

Please let us know the commitments you are making to God by using the Communication Card. We will pray for you!