

The Way of Love – Part 1

Pastor Cal Malena

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I. Matthew the Publican and Simon the Zealot

- the transformation from hate to love

II. A Radically New Way of Love

³⁸"You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'If an eye is injured, injure the eye of the person who did it. If a tooth gets knocked out, knock out the tooth of the person who did it.'³⁹But I say, don't resist an evil person! If you are slapped on the right cheek, turn the other, too. ⁴⁰If you are ordered to court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. ⁴¹If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles. ⁴²Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow.

⁴³"You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and on the unjust, too. ⁴⁶If you love only those who love you, what good is that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. ⁴⁸But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.
- Matt 5:38-47 (NLT)

III. The Love Commandments

1. The Greatest Commandment

One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: ³⁶"Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?"

³⁷Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind."³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. - Matt 22:35-38

2. The Greatest Commandment -Part 2

A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'⁴⁰All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

- Matt 22:39-40

3. Jesus' New Commandment

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."
- John 13:34-35

Don't just pretend that you love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.
Romans 12:9-10