



# When Love is Difficult, Love Like CHRIST

last week's message

It is easy to love people that we have a good relationship with, but it is hard to love those who are “difficult” — those who have different or contradicting opinions, oversensitive, moody, negative, critical, or judgmental, and easily angered. So, how do we love difficult people? We must love like C.H.R.I.S.T.:

## C

### Choice

Loving difficult people is a choice we must make. Jesus commands us to love difficult people by doing good, blessing them, and praying for them (Luke 6:27-28). It is an act of the will. Most of the time the choice to love will go against how we feel, and it must have a firm reason. May that reason be the desire to follow Christ's example, always making that choice to glorify Him as we pursue the way of love!

## H

### Habit

We are controlled by habits. Therefore, loving difficult people is a habit we need to develop. The command to love in Luke 6:27-28 is in the present imperative command, which means that it is something that we need to keep on doing repeatedly until it becomes second nature. Loving is a habit that requires discipline and through constant practice, such as speaking in a gentle voice, thinking the best of others, forgiving, and being gentle.

## R

### Reach Out

Jesus commands us in Luke 6:31 to, “Treat others the same way you want them to treat you”. It is different from “what you don't want done to yourself, do not do to others”. While the latter dwells on passivity and negative thinking, Christ's command is proactive, putting the concept of love into tangible action! We must make the first move, reach out, and show love!

this week's memory verse

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other,  
just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

EPHESIANS 4:32



## When Love is Difficult, Love Like CHRIST

### Inspect Yourself

Matthew 7:3-4 tells us to look at ourselves first before judging or criticizing “difficult” people. Ask yourself: are you moody, selfish, entitled? Is it hard to live with you? Reflecting in this manner may hurt us personally, but it does well for a slumbering, desensitized soul. Sometimes, we complain too much about how difficult others are, yet we miss out on acknowledging our own lapses.

### Surrender

In Luke 6:35, Jesus reminded us to expect nothing in return as we do good towards “difficult” people. Our part as we surrender them to God is to make sure we get rid of the things in our lives that are not pleasing to the Lord (Ephesians 4:31-32). Unforgiveness is counted in that list. We let go of these things and let God do the transformation. Keep entrusting that person as well as ourselves to God. Surrendering is to be thankful to God for using difficult people to change and transform us to grow in love.

### Through the Holy Spirit

Romans 5:5 gives us a picture of overflowing love only made possible by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. 1 John 4:19-20 reminds us to love others as we have been loved by God. It is a tall order to follow — but it is possible. If you have experienced the love of God which was given to us at our worst state and at our utter neglect and avoidance of Him, we will be able to love the difficult, the unlovable, and the worst.

#### discussion questions

Based on an honest self-assessment, are you easy to love? Or are you difficult to love?

How do you respond to those whom you find difficult to love?

What practical things can you do to show love to difficult people?

How can you become a more loving person at home, at work, in school, etc.?



#### join us online

##### Sundays

9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM

 [ccf.org.ph](http://ccf.org.ph)  
 /ccfmain  
 @CCFmainTV

#### join us on tv and radio

##### Sundays

**GCTV Channel 185 (Signal)**  
5:30 AM, 9:30 PM, 2:00 PM, 10:30 PM  
**One PH Channel 1 (Signal), 8:00 PM**  
**Mango Radio, 9:00 AM**  
**DZAS, 2:00 PM**