

Jesus asks a Question  
If you love those who love you, what reward do you have?  
Matthew 5:43-48

We should Reconsider the reasons we justify ourselves.

The people of God taught themselves who to love (Lev 19:18, Deut. 23:5-6)

**Leviticus 19:18** - Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community but love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.

**Deuteronomy 23:5-6** - Yet the Lord your God would not listen to Balaam, but He turned the curse into a blessing for you because the Lord your God loves you. [6] Never seek peace or friendship with them as long as you live.

If we want to do wrong, search long enough and we can find support.

But, if we want to do right, Jesus has clearly given us directions.

One is truth, the other is a lie!

We should desire the Reward of Right Relationships.

The application of our love for *anyone* reveals our level of growth.

Only a child of God can love those who are hard to love.

Easy love is not what Jesus is teaching.

We should strive to achieve a worthy Righteousness.

Yes, you can be perfect. Why would Jesus tell us if we couldn't?

Complete love, visible love, and understood love.

What are the things Jesus said we can do as we start?

Take away:

Think about people who are hard to love. Why are they hard to love?

Reflect upon your own life. What would make you hard for someone to love?

List three things you can do to intentionally love someone who is hard to love. Will you do them this week?