

BE-RICH

PART 3: LOVE

INTRODUCTION

If the church were to disappear from Clarksville tomorrow what would be the response of the people? The truth is some would grieve, some would celebrate, and a larger number of people wouldn't care. It is easy for us to categorize people as friends or enemies based on how they would respond. The danger of this is we typically allow the category to determine how we respond to them. There is an us and there is a them and we do not respond to them the same way that we would respond to us. What if I said that we should respond to all of these categories the same way? With love?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Dave asked "If all of a sudden oneChurch.tv was no longer in Clarksville, what would happen?" Some would grieve, some would celebrate, and some would do nothing. What people, people groups, or organizations do you see falling into each of those categories?
2. Read Matthew 5:43-48. Jesus references tax collectors and pagans, what point was Jesus making?
3. We tend to treat people differently based on which category we put them in. Is this true in your life?
4. Dave said that how we respond to people should always be the same and that it should be with love. Why is this important? Who is a person or a group of people in your life that you need to love in spite of the category that they are in?
5. Once you cross the line into salvation and you put on the hat of being a follower of Christ, you no longer only represent yourself you also represent the church and Jesus Christ. With that mindset how important is it to get this right?

MOVING FORWARD

Commit today to lay down your right to be right. Decide today that moving forward, it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. Decide that here and now no matter how much I may disagree with someone, no matter how much I may not like someone that I will always respond with love. I will always ask the question "what does love require of me?" Because the only way that the church will move from being someone's enemy to being their friend is when we respond with love.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children 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. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

Matthew 5:44-47 NIV