

## **A HARD THING TO DO**

**Matthew 22:39**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** There are a lot of things that are difficult, if not impossible to do and there is one thing that God commands us all to do but it is so hard and that is to "...love our neighbor as we love ourselves..." Every person's first interest is him/herself then everybody else falls in behind in some category. The first commandment is to love the Lord God first and then others as much as we love ourselves. Loving others as much as ourselves is a very hard thing to do. What if everyone did love others as much as they loved themselves?

### **I. WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS REQUIRED?**

1. The kind of love toward others is not one of being "satisfied" with how another person acts.
2. It is not some kind of fondness one might feel toward a particular person or group of people.
3. It is not some involuntary degree of love, it must be deliberate, voluntary.
4. It is a love that is intended to do good - a good-will kind of love with a strong interest in another person's welfare, his/her happiness.
5. It is a love that requires one to care about another person's interests as much as his/her own.
6. It is to be a constant love, not "come and go," not impulsive, spur of the moment kind.

### **II. WHAT IS IMPLIED/INDICATED IN THIS KIND OF LOVE?**

1. It is not some kind of "equal love" for all people regardless of circumstances.
  - Some people are hurtful and dangerous.
2. This kind of love is to be a mutual love as one person does another good, then that person should do good to the one who did good to him/her.
  - Children should love their parents who have loved them first.
  - Those in charge should love those under them and those under leaders should love the leaders.
  - Teachers should love their students and students should love their teachers.
  - God has loved and blessed, therefore those He has loved and blessed, should love Him back.
  - The Church family should love one another as each member benefits from the others.
  - Jesus loves every person, therefore every person should love Jesus back.

### **III. THIS KIND OF LOVE IS TRUE HUMANITY**

1. People should not do good only to their own kind but to every human being.
2. Nothing is really true love except that love which loves for the well-being of all others.

### **IV. LOVING ONLY THAT WHICH ONE CARES THE MOST ABOUT IS NOT TRUE LOVE**

1. If one loves only his/her friends that kind of love does not please God, one must love his/her enemies too.
2. No person can be free of sin and in God's grace who does not love his/her neighbor (others).
3. No person can enjoy heaven without having a true and loving heart.
4. The entrance to heaven is guarded and no person can enter who is unholy or selfish in his/her love.

## CONCLUSION:

1. If everybody obeyed all the laws of God, how wonderful, perfect the world would be.
  - No more war and strife.
  - Every family would be a little image of heaven.
  - Every community would be like heaven.
2. God's "golden rule" of love is equal to everyone, everywhere and in all circumstances. Everyone is to love everyone else as they love themselves - no exemptions!
3. Every act of selfishness is hostile and hateful to God.
4. God's love for every human being is THE example for every human being to follow.
5. ***"...For God so loved the world that He GAVE....."***
6. So, do YOU love your neighbor? Do YOU love unconditionally? What kind of love do YOU have?