

Applying what you've learned from these passages about love to Jesus' command to love our enemies, how does your understanding of what Jesus is calling us to change? What is involved in loving people who are tough to love?

Jesus demonstrated love for his enemies (by ultimately letting them kill him). Read Matthew 23:13-36. How do Jesus' actions and words reconcile with or contradict the picture of love seen in the previous passages?

### **Digging Deeper**

Nolan described enemies to include people who don't love you or that are tough to love. Are there people in your life that have consistently been harder to love? Are there times or occasions where loving enemies is harder? Explain.

As you think about your past, is there anyone you should reach out to in love? Are there any people in your life right now that you've avoided showing love to? What changes could you make to demonstrate love to them?

## **Sermon Notes**

### **Tough to Love**

*Matthew 5:43-48*

Nolan Donald



***WordServe. Shaped by God's Word;  
serving God's world.***

## Community Group Prep Work

*For the week of October 11, 2009*

Please complete the following questions before your Community Group meeting.

### Getting Started

If you have any super power, what would it be? Why?

As you reflect on Sunday's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?

Is there an example from history or literature/movies of loving an enemy that comes to mind when you think of this topic? Have you ever seen this demonstrated by a friend or family member?

In the home you grew up in, was reaching out to people who were "tough to love" demonstrated? Did people in your house seek to reach out to people who didn't love them? Why or why not?

This Sunday, we looked at Jesus' command to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Oftentimes, that is easier said than done. Read 1 Corinthians 13. Jot down things you notice.

Make two columns: one that describes what love is and one that describes what love is not.

What love is...

What love is not...

How important/necessary is love in living out actions of our faith? What happens if we act without love?

Read John 21:15-19. How is love characterized in this passage?

What do you think Jesus meant when he told Peter to care for his sheep?