



People \_\_\_\_\_ disagree \_\_\_\_\_ with you.

*“He meant we should love the people we don’t understand. The ones we disagree with. The ones who are flat out wrong about more than a couple of things. I have plenty of people in my life like that, and my bet is you do too.” — Bob Goff*

Phase 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Disagreement \_\_\_\_\_

Phase 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Blame \_\_\_\_\_

Phase 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Demonization \_\_\_\_\_

Phase 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Contempt \_\_\_\_\_

Phase 5: \_\_\_\_\_ Mistreatment \_\_\_\_\_

1. Understand their \_\_\_\_\_ inherent \_\_\_\_\_ dignity \_\_\_\_\_.

So God **created** human beings in his own image. In the image of God he **created** them; male and female he **created** them.  
*Genesis 1:27*

*“There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit...next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses.” — C.S. Lewis*

2. Be \_\_\_\_\_ humble \_\_\_\_\_.

Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in **humility** be moved to treat one another as **more important** than yourself. *Philippians 2:3*

3. Give \_\_\_\_\_ respect \_\_\_\_\_.

**Love** one another with brotherly affection. **Outdo** one another in showing **honor**. *Romans 12:10*

*“Respect guards against mistreatment.” — Dallas Willard*

*“Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone’s lifestyle, you must fear or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don’t have to compromise convictions to be compassionate.” — Rick Warren*

Who do you struggle to love because you disagree with them?

Group Prep

In preparation for group, please read Matthew 25:31-40 and listen to the weekend service message, then answer the following discussion questions.

Introduction

Bob Goff stated, “He [Jesus] meant we should love the people we don’t understand. The ones we disagree with. The ones who are flat out wrong about more than a couple things. I have plenty of people in my life like that, and my bet is you do too.” God calls us to love our neighbors, the ones we don’t understand, the ones we disagree with, and the ones who drive us absolutely crazy. We are to love because God first loved us.

Discussion Questions

1. Who or what group of people do you find difficult to love because you disagree with them? Why is it so hard to love people we disagree with? What are some obstacles you need to overcome to love that group of people?

Read Matthew 25:31-40. How can we apply these verses to help us love those we find most difficult?

2. From the sermon, how has the progression of the phases played out in your own life recently? Phase 1: Disagreement. Phase 2: Blame. Phase 3: Demonization. Phase 4: Contempt. Phase 5: Mistreatment. Which “Phase” resonated with you the most and why?

3. Here are three strategies to help us love those we disagree with.  
a. See their inherent dignity: What does “inherent dignity” mean to you? As Christians, how does our view of others change knowing God created them in His own image?

b. Be humble: Is there someone in your life you need to consider more important than yourself? How can you seek to humbly show preference to that person over your own preferences?

c. Give respect: There’s an old saying that states, “Respect has to be earned.” Do you agree or disagree and why? As believers, how can we respect those we disagree with, regardless of our positional differences?

Action Step

4. Who are you currently struggling to love because you disagree with them? How and what do you need to do this week to love them better?

My action step is \_\_\_\_\_.

I will encourage and pray for \_\_\_\_\_ to follow through, and their action step is \_\_\_\_\_.

My memory verse is \_\_\_\_\_.

This coming week, I’m praying for \_\_\_\_\_.

Outreach: Groups in Action

Throughout the month of February, we will be collecting specific clothing items to provide school uniforms for students at the Rosa Parks Kindergarten Academy. These items are crucial for the students who have accidents that ruin their uniforms or for families who struggle to purchase larger sizes of uniforms mid-year because their child has outgrown them.

Specific sizes needed are 4T-10. Please donate solid colored polo shirts, navy/khaki/black pants, navy/khaki/black shorts or skirts, and new underwear and socks. For more information, please contact Emmanuel’s Outreach Director, Kerry Carmichael at [kcarmichael@eclife.org](mailto:kcarmichael@eclife.org).