

# sermon

## discussion guide

October 1, 2017

“Making Room”

Pastor Steve DeNeff

Matthew 5:43-48; 7:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-6

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### Opening Prayer:

*Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded. Amen. ([Prayers for Illumination](#))*

### Discussion Starter:

*Tell of a time you were a part of an uncomfortable, awkward, or boring dinner.*

*Do you agree that we place a higher standard on who we invite to dinner? Why or why not? How do you decide who you invite to dinner?*

### Sermon Summary:

*Review the sermon as a group.*

- *Remember and review why we are talking about living the gospel. What is the gospel?*
- *What key points or ideas from this week's sermon stood out to you?*
- *How did the Spirit stir you to action or change?*
- *What other Scripture passages came to mind during the sermon and why?*
  - **Other passages referenced:** John 17:22-23; John 17:25-26; Leviticus 19:33-34; Galatians 6:1-2

### Key sermon points:

- *When we, as a part of the body of Christ, enter into the loving relationship of the Father, Son, and Spirit, we love others with an overflow of God's love. How is our perspective and behavior changed when we begin to respond to God's love by loving others as the Father loves the Son?*
- *In our culture, when we love something/someone, we begin to hate anything/anyone in opposition to what we love. Have you seen this hatred as loyalty in action? Give some examples.*
- *We don't need to prove our loyalty for one by hating another. We are free to love people, not for what is in them, but instead out of God's love in us. To choose the good for the other person is how we love.*
- *The hardest people to love:*
  1. *The alien – the people who “aren't from here” and the outsiders*
  2. *The sinner – those who have broken the moral code*
  3. *The Invisible – those who have lost significant place in society*
  4. *The threat – those who put the things we value in jeopardy*
    - *Are there other categories you would put in this list? Which of these do you struggle the most to love?*

**Next Steps:**

- *Loving our enemies seems difficult if not impossible. Here are some beginning steps. If you're comfortable, answer these questions together in the group.*
  1. *Who is the hardest person for you to love?*
  2. *What barrier would you have to overcome to begin to love them?*
  3. *What prevents you from crossing that barrier?*
  4. *What would be the next thing for you to do in order to start lowering this barrier?*
- *When have I made room?*
- *When haven't I made room?*
- *Where could I make room?*

*Who are you inviting to your table? Who might you want to invite to your table?*

**Prayer:**

*Spend some time sharing ways you can pray for each other. Specifically in regards to how you will respond to the sermon.*