

SERMON STUDY NOTES

14 February 2021
Speaker: Martin Armstrong

Loving the Lost

1. We have all encountered people who mistreat or take advantage of others. Who are some of the most difficult people you have encountered?
2. We it's important not to be too judgemental of the actions of other people. Sometimes a lack of concern is a product of being self-absorbed or unaware at a particular moment in time. Can you recall a situation where your actions have been misunderstood or you have misinterpreted a person's behaviour?
3. **Damaged people can be insensitive** and have an ability to cut off their feelings and be unaffected by the feelings of others. What do you think produces this?
4. Many people mistakenly believe that the loving response to an abusive person is to grin and bear their cruelty. In situations where inflicted pain is deliberate, continuous, abusive, and repetitive; it may be appropriate to confront the person them with the truth about their behaviour. This needs to be undertaken in a loving careful way. Discuss
5. James 3:16 ...*where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.* Why is this the case, what forms can it take?

6. Spiritual blindness causes people to refuse to see what is happening to them. An alcoholic insists he can stop anytime he wants to. A wife whose husband is cheating on her will choose to believe that he is working late night after night. A couple whose marriage is in tatters smile in public and tell everyone how much they really love each other. Why is this?
7. God's cure for the sickness of denial is found in 1 John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Can anyone in the group share how he or she felt set free through confession?"*
8. 1 Peter 4:8 *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. We can make a conscious choice to wait, prayerfully and patiently rather than to rush in and rescue or confront. Name some situations where this is a wise response.*
9. Be aware of the temptation to disguise meanness, selfishness, and revenge in the wrappings of "speaking the truth in love." Have you ever encountered this?
10. In situations where the wrong doing is a result of the failing of the moment; then love and forgiveness will usually provide a protective environment for recovery and healing. Discuss.