

Matthew 5:33-48 - Distinctive love – promise keeping, no retaliating, enemy loving

Loving difficult people at work or school is hard (*Under Pressure*, Andrew Laird)

Context - When we are righteous (5.20) by faith in Christ it results in living rightly from the heart

1. Promise Keeping v33-37; Deut 5.11,20; Num 30.2; Lev 19.12

Using oaths and swearing on God's name to avoid the truth

Oaths (Heb 6.16-17; Matt 26.63; 1 Thess 5.27;
Rom 9.1; 2 Cor 1.18,23; Heb 6.13-18)

Keep your word – Yes means yes.

2. No Retaliating v38-42; Lev 24.19-21; Rom 12.17-19; Ex 22.26-27

But giving

3. Enemy Loving v43-48; Lev 19.18; Luke 10.25-37; Rom 12.17-21

Love enemies in the workplace

Fearless, faithful, faultless like Daniel - 'Being the Bad Guys', Steve McAlpine
(See also '*Love in Hard Places*', Don Carson)

4. We can't do it. Christ did it. Matt 5.48; v44-45; 1 Pet 2.22-24; Rom 5.8

Now *do it* because you are loved, and been saved to be *like* your Father

Loving those closest to you (See *Strong-willed child*, James Dobson
& *Age of Opportunity*, Paul Tripp)