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CHOOSING LOVE

with Joyce Meyer

Why do you think the message of Loving People Who Are Hard to Love is so needed today?

JM: God put it on my heart to write this book because it seems that there is more anger, hatred, violence, lack of peace, lack of real love, and more turmoil than ever before. I'm in my seventies now and have noticed that in every decade there have been problems like this, but the situations we face today are even more serious than I've experienced before in my lifetime.

There's no easy answer to the challenges we have to deal with in our society, but each one of us must do what we can to change what we can change. I love what Martin Luther King Jr said: "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." This means we must learn to live in peace and walk in love, including people who are hard to love.

I've said often that love is not just a theory or a warm, fuzzy feeling; it's how we treat people. The truth is unless we become really good at not being easily offended and extending forgiveness to those who hurt us, there really isn't any hope for peace and unity in this world. This is not easy, and many times we decide to follow our feelings rather than do what is right because it's hard.

God gives us His grace and the power of the Holy Spirit to do hard things. But we have to be willing and determined to do our part to be peacemakers and to make loving others a priority whether we feel like it or not.

I'm so passionate about sharing this message because I've been there, and I know how much better life can be when we learn how to walk in love with people who are hard to love. It's why I'm really excited to share more about it at our women's conference this year.

What's the difference between unconditional and conditional love?

JM: God's love is unconditional love, and 1 Corinthians 13 gives us His description of what it looks like in practice. For example, love is not selfish or self-centered, and it doesn't have to be right. As a matter of fact, love sacrifices its right to be right. It is not impatient or harsh. It does not gossip, criticize, or spread rumors about the faults and sins of others, but it covers them and prays for their forgiveness and change of heart. The Bible also says that love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8).

Conditional love is the opposite of God's love, and it's based on certain conditions. For example, someone may say they love you but if you disappoint them or don't give them their way all the time, they end up rejecting you. It's controlling and manipulative, because the motive behind it is focused on getting what you need, rather than giving someone what they need without strings attached.

Human love without God is conditional love. We all need God's grace—His help and power working in us—to love others unselfishly, with no pretense of expecting something in return. The reason for this is we can't give something away that we

don't have ourselves. So if God is not your source of love—if you don't have a personal relationship with Him that is actively growing on a daily basis—then you won't have the ability to love people unconditionally.

What does it mean to "disagree agreeably," and how is this an important part of healthy relationships?

JM: Respecting everyone's right to their own opinion is an important key to loving people. When we try to convince people to change their mind and agree with us, if we continue doing it long enough, it usually ends in anger. People want freedom; they don't want control and manipulation.

Life is too short to argue and be angry and unforgiving. We don't all agree, but we can learn to disagree agreeably.

In the earlier years of our marriage, I could not understand how my husband, Dave, could think the way he did when his perspective or opinions did not agree with mine. But I have since learned that we all see things from different perspectives.

If we want to have peace in our relationships, respecting everyone's right to their own opinion is very important. When we

respect that right, we don't argue with them about what they think, or make comments that make them feel that something is wrong with them because they feel the way they do. We may have discussions over topics or situations about which we don't agree, but a discussion is not the same as an argument.

The bottom line is it's okay to discuss anything as long as we can do it peacefully and respectfully. Sometimes it's best just to talk about subjects we can agree on and avoid ones we don't. We can agree to disagree and not discuss it.

When we choose to love our enemies and forgive them, we're actually choosing to help ourselves... Talk to us about that.

JM: It's impossible to love people and have healthy relationships unless we are generous with forgiveness. No one is perfect, and there is no perfect relationship on this earth. We all disappoint, hurt or offend others at times, just as we get hurt or offended by others.

It's so important to be quick to forgive—to let go of offenses instead of carrying the burden of anger, bitterness, resentment and every other negative attitude they cause us to have. The Bible is very clear about how love "keeps no record of wrongs" (1 Corinthians 13:5 NIV), and "if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins" (Matthew 6:15 NIV). When we choose not to forgive others, we're actually hurting ourselves more than we're hurting the people who offended us because we're holding on to sin that separates us from God. I'm not saying that we're no longer in relationship with Him, but we can't be intimate with Jesus and angry with others. In fact, it's possible to hinder our relationship with God so much that we live miserable lives without any peace, joy or love.

Loving People Who Are Hard to Love

Transforming Your World by Learning to Love Unconditionally

A young, confident woman sits typing at her computer. Her office overlooks the city below. Outside her window, a group of women stand talking about their social lives. One of the women glances at her before whispering something to the other ladies. They burst into laughter.

Across the country, an older man covered in grease leans over an oily engine. He asked the new mechanic if he could pass him a wrench from the nearby tool chest. The young man takes the tool out and sits it on top of the toolbox instead of bringing it over. He gives the older mechanic a smirk as he walks off.

In a nearby park, a young mother struggles to wrangle her child as she juggles her phone, diaper bag, and stroller. She topples over spilling everything out onto the ground. A nearby mother remarks, "Maybe you should've stayed home today."

The reality is that in life you will come across people who are okay with being difficult or unkind to you. Yet, the Bible commands us to love people, even those who are mean to us. So, how do we do that? How do we show the love of Christ in a powerful way when the other person has little to no interest in whether or not you like them?

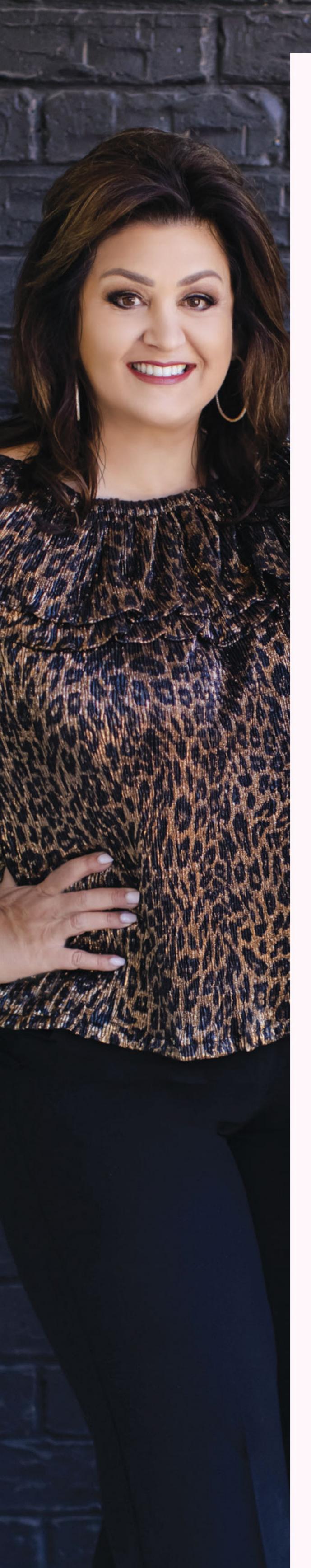
The honest truth is that this is no easy task. Perhaps that's why we are commanded to do it rather than just being given the option. In her book, Loving People Who Are Hard to Love, Joyce Meyer brings to light how many who are looking for love

are really looking for God because He IS love. See, most people are hurting and seeking to fill a void that they don't know how to fill. When we show love, we are showing them the way to the love they are seeking, and even if it doesn't seem like they are getting anything from it, you are changing their life in a powerful way.



So put on that smile, determine in your heart to love them, and be audacious enough to see them transformed by freely giving what they so desperately need.

To get your copy of Joyce's book Loving People Who Are Hard to Love, become a Daystar partner using the enclosed form and unlock the secret to making a difference right where you are.



Hello Daystar Family,

I think it's easy to look around right now and realize we are living in some trying, chaotic times. The enemy has certainly elevated the amount of fear, hate, and confusion in the world, and perhaps what's most disheartening is that it's affecting our children and has even found its way into the Church.

We are seeing congregations celebrating sin and calling it good. There are churches embracing transgenderism, the transitioning of children, the eradication of babies through abortion, and the list just goes on and on. That's why it is becoming all the more important to stand for truth, because if we won't, then who will?

As a family, we recently celebrated the birthdays of my grandsons - Asher, who is three, and Judah, who turned two this year. When I think about just how quickly things are changing in the world and how it will affect their lives, I find myself feeling more vigilant and determined than ever before to shine the light of Christ and declare truth to the nations.

So, this month you will see more guests on *Table Talk* like Kevin and M'Lisa Goff who share about the emotional and psychological impact of abortion, Rod Parsley discussing the state of the Church, Joyce Meyer on loving people who are difficult to love, and miraculous life-after-death stories from Howard Storm and Bruce Van Natta just to name a few.

As we look ahead and continue to take a stand for truth and God's Word, please continue to pray for our family, especially my grandchildren, that God would sow into them boldness, because they will need this in the years ahead. And I invite you to come and stand alongside us in our fight to share the truth. Next month, we will have our fall Heart for the World. Come be a part of helping us change lives all across the globe.

I declare the blessings of the Lord upon you and your family. Let's revolutionize the world with God's love in our generation!

Yours for Christian Television,

Joni Lamb

Co-Founder & President Daystar Television Network THIS MONTH

MINISTRY NOW

SEPTEMBER 16 - Tim Timberlake **SEPTEMBER 17 -** Lance Wallnau &

Jimmy Evans

SEPTEMBER 24 - Bishop Drew Sheard **SEPTEMBER 30 -** Perry Stone

JONI TABLE TALK SEPTEMBER 5 & 6

Jimmy Evans & Lance Wallnau

Are current events and prophecy aligning to reveal the coming of something that will change life as we know it? In this two-part special, Jimmy Evans and Lance Wallnau talk about what we are seeing unfold and why it matters.

SEPTEMBER 12

The Power of 1440

Tim Timberlake

Discover how to make the most out of every minute of your day! Tim Timberlake reveals the importance and blessing of the specific time you have and the value and gift it holds for fulfilling your purpose.

SEPTEMBER 13

Loving People Who Are Hard to Love Joyce Meyer

Want to break free from the frustration of dealing with those that just make your life difficult? Joyce Meyer gives a candid look at what it means to love your enemy and how to love those who are hard to love.

SEPTEMBER 27

The Vision Perry Stone

Is there a greater shaking coming to America? Perry Stone shares some shocking prophetic warnings regarding the road ahead, what their impact will be, and how the Church needs to prepare.

I praise God for Daystar and the Lamb family! I discovered Daystar last December as I battled with loneliness. It's so nice to see all of you doing ministry as a family and carrying on Daystar! Thank you for providing truth to the Christian community. May God continue to bless you all.

Xiomara from Connecticut

Share Your Testimony Daystar.com/DaystarTestimony

I have been watching Daystar daily now for about a year. I am so thankful for you because I rely on my favorite shows and Pastors, to worship and to learn God's Living Word. This helps me to understand and reinforce Scripture.

Thank you for everything that you and your team does to help spread the Gospel!

Michael from Texas