

ALMOST TRUE

The Problem with Perfectionism

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1. Nobody expects you to be perfect...

- Because we are only human
- Except that Jesus commands it

⁴³ “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶ If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷ If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. ⁴⁸ But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect. **Matthew 5:43-48 NLT**

2. What does it mean as a Christian to be perfect?

- The commitment to love God and people
- The transforming power of God at work in our lives

3. How can we cooperate with God as he transforms us and makes us perfect?

- Humble ourselves
- Respond with obedience

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. **Ephesians 4:2 NLT**

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. **Philippians 2:3 NLT**

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. **James 1:22 NLT**

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. **Colossians 3:12 NLT**

Next Steps:

- Accept Jesus' command to “be perfect” by humbling myself and following Jesus
- Accept Jesus' command to “be perfect” as a call to love my enemies: _____
- Humble myself in my relationship with _____
- Surrender my perfectionism to God knowing that he is calling me to perfect love, not perfect performance
- _____