

Before something is
loveable, it must first be
loved.

MATTHEW 5:43-48 ESV

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, **Love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, **so that you may be sons of your Father** who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? **You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

LEVITICUS 19:18 ESV

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the LORD.

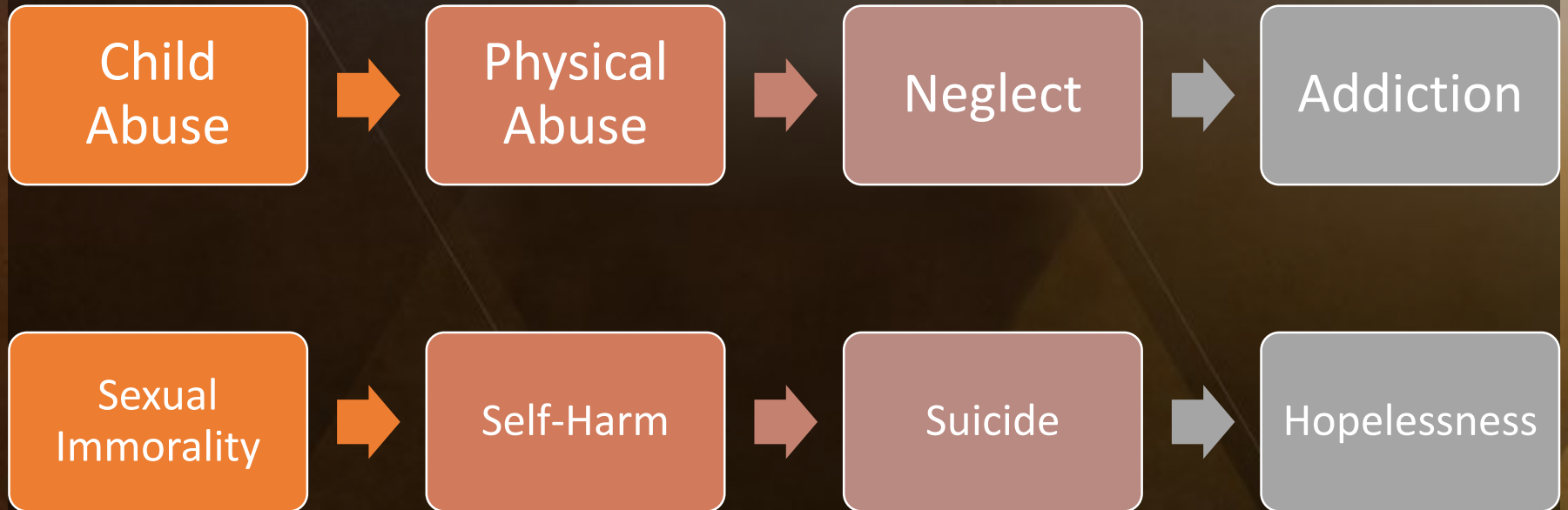
LEVITICUS 19:18 ESV

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the LORD.

They weren't interested in being light to the world, a blessing to the nations, or salt on the earth. They were only interested in self-preservation. So they added "and hate your enemy."

Somewhere along the line there has to be a mother **who forgives** her sons **murderer**.
Somewhere true love has to enter into the equation and **break** the **curse**. If not, the cycle of sin will continue to breed corruption upon corruption.

A CYCLE OF SIN



LUKE 10:27 ESV

You shall **love the Lord** your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, **and your neighbor** as yourself.

JESUS ESSENTIALLY ASKS...

“You want to know who your **neighbor** is? Start with this question, ‘**Who do you hate?**’ and move on from there.”

KEYSTONE HABITS

Aligns many smaller habits underneath them.

Flossing

- Get Up Early
- Eat Breakfast
- Brush Teeth
- Floss

Running

- Get Up Early
- Stretch
- Eat Breakfast
- Time for Devotions

KEYSTONE HABITS—LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR/ENEMY

- Loving people you like
- Forgiveness
- Bitterness
- Anger
- Retaliation
- Murder
- Giving to the poor
- Extending hospitality
- Bringing Salvation to others

EXCERPTS FROM TORTURED FOR CHRIST

...Christians are more than mere men; they are children of God, partakers of the divine nature. Therefore, tortures endured in Communist prisons have not made me hate Communists. They are God's creatures; how can I hate them?

EXCERPTS FROM TORTURED FOR CHRIST

St. Macary said, "If a man loves all men passionately, but says only about one man that him he cannot love, the man who says this is no more a Christian, because his love is not all-embracing."

EXCERPTS FROM TORTURED FOR CHRIST

I have seen Christians in Communist prisons with fifty pounds of chains on their feet, tortured with red-hot iron pokers, in whose throats spoonfuls of salt had been forced, being kept afterward without water, starving, whipped, suffering from cold-and praying with fervor for the Communists. This is humanly inexplicable! It is the love of Christ, which was poured out in our hearts.

EXCERPTS FROM TORTURED FOR CHRIST

I have seen Christians give away their last slice of bread (we were given one slice a week) and the medicine that could save their lives to a sick Communist torturer, who was now a fellow prisoner.

EXCERPTS FROM TORTURED FOR CHRIST

Communists have committed and still commit horrors but [the Bible teaches] "love is as strong as death...Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it" (Song of Solomon 8:6-7). As the grave insists on having all-rich and poor; young and old; men of all races, nations, and political convictions; saints and criminals- so love is all-embracing. Christ, the Incarnate Love, wants all men to come to Him, including the Communists.

EXCERPTS FROM TORTURED FOR CHRIST

A minister who had been horribly beaten was thrown into my cell. He was half-dead, with blood streaming from his face and body. We washed him. Some prisoners cursed the Communists. Groaning, he said, "Please, don't curse them! Keep silent! I wish to pray for them."

