



Love YOUR ENEMY

THE HIGHEST EXPRESSION OF CHRISTLIKENESS

LUKE 6:27-38



LOVE
them



DO GOOD
to them



BLESS
them



PRAY
for them

LOVE BEYOND OFFENSE. MERCY BEYOND REASON.

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SENIOR PASTOR



Luke 6:27-38

²⁷ “But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

²⁸ bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.

²⁹ To him who strikes you on the *one* cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold *your* tunic either.

³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask *them* back.

Luke 6:27-38

³¹ And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

³² “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

³⁴ And if you lend *to those* from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back.

Luke 6:27-38

³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

³⁶ Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Luke 6:27-38

³⁷ “Judge not, and you shall not be judged.
Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned.
Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you: good
measure, pressed down, shaken together, and
running over will be put into your bosom. For
with the same measure that you use, it will be
measured back to you.

Theme:

The highest evidence of Christlikeness is not how we treat our friends, but how we treat those who have become our enemies.

The Impossible Command

- This is perhaps one of the most difficult, personally offensive, and humanly impossible commands Jesus ever gave.
 - And then there are commands that confront everything that is naturally within us.
 - **Luke 6:27** belongs in that last category.
- “But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you.”

Flesh Vs. Christ

- **Our flesh says:**
 - Get even.
 - Defend yourself.
 - Return the insult.
 - Protect your reputation.
 - Make them feel what they made you feel.
- **But Christ says...**
 - **Love them.**
 - Not tolerate them.
 - Not merely ignore them.
 - Not simply avoid revenge.
 - **Love them.**

Enemy?

- **(Luke 6:27)**
- The Greek word is **ἐχθρός (echthros)**.
- It describes someone actively hostile toward another.
- It is much stronger than simply disliking someone.
- An enemy is someone who has crossed the line from disagreement into opposition.

Enemy?

- One who hates you.
- One who opposes your well-being.
- One who desires your downfall.
- One who works against your interests.
- One who seeks to damage your reputation.
- One who resists your success.
- One who stands against you rather than with you.

Four Gradations/Stages of Human Evil

1. Hate those who love you.
2. Hate those who hate you.
3. Love those who love you.
4. Love those who hate you.

Only the fourth reflects Christ.

1. Hating Those Who Love You

- This resembles Satan himself.
- There are people who hate those trying to help them.
- Parents are hated by rebellious children.
- Pastors are hated for preaching truth.
- Friends are hated for giving correction.
- Jesus Himself was hated while healing people.
- Jesus said, “They hated me without a cause.”

Application: Responding to Hatred

- Don't allow another person's hatred to reshape your character.
- Faithfulness is measured by obedience, not popularity.

2. Hating Those Who Hate You

This is fallen human nature.

Our flesh says: **“You hurt me... I’ll hurt you.”**

- “You attack me... I’ll attack you.”
- The flesh keeps score. The flesh remembers every insult. The flesh rehearses every offense. The flesh builds court cases. The flesh waits for opportunities to retaliate.’

Romans 12:1 -“Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

2. Hating Those Who Hate You

- Bitterness feels justified.
- Resentment feels deserved.
- But every day we nurture hatred... the hatred begins nurturing us.
- Hebrews 12:15“Looking diligently lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you...”
- Bitterness never stays in one relationship.
- It spreads into every relationship.

3. Loving Those Who Love You

- Jesus says in verses 32–34...
- “What thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.”
- **This is ordinary.**
- This is expected. Even unbelievers love their families.
- Criminals love fellow criminals.
- Gangs love fellow gang members.
- There is nothing supernatural about reciprocal love.

3. Loving Those Who Love You

- **Our love must never become contractual.**
- “I’ll love you if...”
- “I’ll forgive you when...”
- “I’ll be kind provided...”
- That is not biblical love.
- Christian love is covenantal.
- It reflects God’s character.

4. Loving Those Who Hate You

- Now Jesus brings us to the summit.
- **This is the highest expression of Christianity.**
- Not merely refusing revenge...
- But actively seeking another person's good.
- Notice Jesus gives four commands.
- Verse 27 Love your enemies. Do good.
- Verse 28 Bless those who curse you.
- Pray for those who mistreat you.
- Love becomes visible.

Romans 5: We Were Enemies

Verse 10 - “When we were **enemies** we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son.”

- Notice...
- God did not wait until we became His friends.
- He loved us while we were His enemies.
- We were not merely weak.
- Not merely misguided.
- Not merely confused.
- **We were hostile toward God.**