

## How to Love People Who Rub Us the Wrong Way

Luke 6:27-36

In this passage, Jesus provides **two commands** for His followers as they deal with the difficult people in their lives.

- **Command #1: DEMONSTRATE LOVE TO THE “ENEMIES” IN YOUR LIFE.**

*“But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Luke 6:27-28 (New International Version)*

Enemy = someone who has done you some injury and doesn't care about putting that injury right

- Love is something you do, not primarily an emotion.

*My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action. I John 3:18 (Good News Translation)*

- Greek word for love in Luke 6:27 = agape = self-giving love for the benefit of others.

### Three Ways to Demonstrate Agape Love to Those Who Hurt You

- You love “enemies” with your deeds: . . . do good to those who hate you . . .

*But now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may become the children of your Father in heaven. For he makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and to those who do evil. Matthew 5:44-45 (GNT)*

The principle: React with the highest good for the person who has hurt you.

- You love your “enemies” with your words: . . . bless those who curse you . . .

- Cursing = words that tear down: critical, derogatory, disapproving, hostile, unpleasant

- Blessings = words that build up: positive, accepting, whatever will help that person the most at the time

- You love your “enemies” through your prayers: . . . Pray for those who mistreat you . . .

- **Command #2: TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WANT TO BE TREATED.**

*If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:29-31 (NIV)*

See Acts 14:5-7; Romans 12:17-19; John 18:22-24

- **CHRIST'S REASONS FOR FOLLOWING HIM IN LOVE FOR ENEMIES**

*“If you love only the people who love you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners love those who love them! <sup>33</sup>And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners do that! <sup>34</sup>And if you lend only to those from whom you hope to get it back, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount! <sup>35</sup>No! Love your enemies and do good to them; lend and expect nothing back. You will then have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High God. For he is good to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful just as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:32-36 (GNT)*

### Demonstrate love to enemies because . . .

- . . . Christ-followers are called to a higher standard.
- . . . when Christ-followers obey this command, they are promised an eternal reward.
- . . . when Christ-followers obey this command, they are imitating their Father.

*There was a plot afoot among the Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them. <sup>6</sup>But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, <sup>7</sup>where they continued to preach the good news. Acts 14:5-7 (NIV)*

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil . . . <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup>Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. Romans 12:17-19 (NIV)*

*When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded. <sup>23</sup>"If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" <sup>24</sup>Then Annas sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest. John 18:22-24 (NIV)*