

God loved us even when we were His enemies and He'll be with us when we step out to love ours.

Romans 12:9-21; 13:8-14

What will happen when we love this way?

Love Your Enemy

Luke 6:27-38

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Questions for discussion and application

- Read Luke 6:22-38? What is the context for verses 27-38 and why is that context so important?
- Who is this command given to?
- Is it ok for Jesus to command the “new community” to love? Why or why not?
- Why is this command so difficult for us? Is it scary to you? If so, why? What does it require?
- In verses 29-30 Jesus illustrates from things we value most: our bodies and possessions. What are these illustrations ultimately calling us to?
- We often hear verse 31 quoted alone. Describe what happens when we filter our speech and actions through this verse; when we allow it to direct us.
- When we think we've taken love far enough, Jesus is saying we've only begun, go further still. How does he challenge our understanding of love and sacrifice in verses 32-34?
- What are some ways you have set boundaries on love (or been tempted to)?
- According to verses 35-36 what is the motive / reason we're to love this way? Do you agree this should be the starting place if we're determined to make this “way of life” our own?
- Read Romans 12: 9-21 and 13:8-14. Where do you feel the need to make determined steps toward love? Do you need to repent, own up to wrong done, and make things right with someone? Take time to pray that we would “be who we are” – a new community made up of individuals determined to live a lifestyle of absurd generosity and ridiculous love.

A new way of life for a new community

1. Marching orders: The command to love (Luke 6:27-31)

The command to love your enemies is the “non-negotiable center piece” of the new community, The Church.

Who does Jesus mean by “enemies”?

An enemy always *takes* something from us and we're being told to *give*.

Verse 29 *“the other cheek”*

1 Peter 2:20-24; Acts 16

A posture of humility.
Am I willing to be rejected?

Verses 29-30 *“your cloak (outer clothing) and your tunic (inner)”*

This isn't about passivity; indifference, it's about concern and compassion; a willingness to be vulnerable and practice radical self-sacrifice.
Requires reliance on God / extraordinary trust.

“Love must decide.”
Am I willing to be vulnerable?

Eugene Peterson: *“Sin reduces people around us to roles or objects so we can use them or manipulate them or condescendingly help them. They are depersonalized so we don't have to be relational with them.”*

Verse 31 *“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”*

2. Go further still: The question of love
(Luke 6:32-34)

- If you love...
- If you do good...
- If you lend...

Don't set boundaries on love.

Imagine what could happen!

3. Identity Markers: The reason we love
(Luke 6:35-38)

Verse 36 *“Be like this because that's what God is like!”*

- **Ephesians 5:1-2**
- **Romans 5:10**

Be who you are!

- When we're tempted to judge, what does mercy look like?
- When we're tempted to condemn (write others off).
- When we're tempted to walk in unforgiveness (bitterness).

“pressed down and shaken together” = A love that is shocking, full of life and hard to grasp - and *absurdly* generous.