

Love Your Enemies

Luke 6:27-36



Luke 6:27-28

“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you,
pray for those who mistreat you.”



Luke 6:29-30

“Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also;
and whoever takes away your coat,
do not withhold your shirt from him either.
Give to everyone who asks of you,
and whoever takes away what is yours,
do not demand it back.”



Luke 6:31-34

“Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.
If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?

For even sinners love those who love them.

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

If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive,
what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners
in order to receive back the same amount.”



Luke 6:35-36

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”





Main Point

Those who listen to Jesus will orient their hearts to love their enemies and will act toward them out of that love.



Love Your Enemies

What are Jesus' commands?



What is Jesus saying to us?

Listen to My instruction.



Luke 6:27

“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies.”



Luke 6:27

“But **I say to you who hear**, love your enemies.”



Luke 6:27

“But I say to ***you hearing ones***, love your enemies.”

Implicit in this description
is a command to listen.

Luke 9:35

Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying,
“This is My Son, My Chosen One; **listen to Him!**”



What is the background?

Deuteronomy 29:4

Yet to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to know,
nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear.



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Deuteronomy 29:4

Yet to this day **the LORD has not given you** a heart to know,
nor eyes to see, nor *ears to hear*.



Who are the “hearing ones?”

Luke 8:8

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”



Who are the “hearing ones?”

Luke 8:8

“He who *has ears* to hear, let him hear.”



Who are the “hearing ones?”

Psalm 40:6 and 8

Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired;

My ears You have opened...

I delight to do Your will, O my God;
Your Law is within my heart.



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Jeremiah 31:33-34

“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD.





The “hearing ones” are those who,
having been changed by God’s grace,
now love Him and His Word.



What is Jesus saying to us?

Listen to My instruction.

Orient your heart to love your enemies.



Luke 6:27

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Luke 6:27

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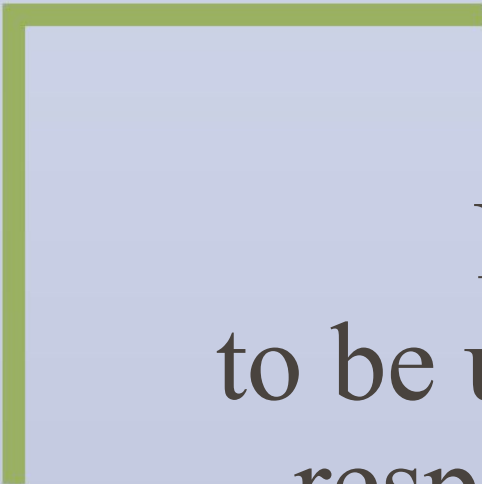


Luke 6:27

“But I say to you who hear, *love* your enemies.”

Love is set in contrast to hatred.





Neither love nor hatred are meant
to be understood merely as intense *emotional*
responses but as fundamental orientations
that get worked out in action.

To love an enemy is to orient
one's heart toward his good and
to speak and act accordingly.



What is the natural orientation of the heart?

Matthew 5:43

“You have heard it said,
‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’”



What is the natural orientation of the heart?

Matthew 5:43

“You have heard it said,

‘**You shall** love your neighbor and **hate your enemy**.’”

The love commanded by Jesus runs in the opposite direction to our self-centered intuitions.



Love Your Enemies

What are Jesus' commands?

How do we obey His command
to love our enemies?



How do we obey Jesus' command to love our enemies?

By doing good to our haters.



Luke 6:27

“But I say to you who hear, **love your enemies**,
do good to those who hate you.”



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How do we do good to our enemies?

We greet them.

Matthew 5:47

“If you greet only your brothers,
what more are you doing than others?
Do not even the Gentiles do the same?”



How do we do good to our enemies?

We greet them.

We give to them.

Luke 6:35

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High.”



How do we do good to our enemies?

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We give to them.

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“But love your enemies, and **do good, and lend,**
expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great,
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How do we do good to our enemies?

We greet them.

We give to them.

We help them.

Romans 12:20

*“But if your enemy is hungry, feed him,
and if he is thirsty, give him a drink.”*



How do we do good to our enemies?

We greet them.

We give to them.

We help them.

We show kindness to them.

Luke 6:35

“But love your enemies, and do good...
for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.”



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We greet them.

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We help them.

We show kindness to them.

Luke 6:35

“But love your enemies, and **do good**...
for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.”



How do we obey Jesus' command to love our enemies?

By doing good to our haters.

By blessing our cursers.



Luke 6:27-28

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do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you.”



Luke 6:27-28

“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies,

do good to those who hate you, **bless those who curse you.**”



Luke 6:27-28

“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies,

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Luke 6:27-28

“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies,

do good to those who hate you, ***bless*** those who curse you.”

To bless our enemies is to speak good
of them and upon them.



James 3:8-10

But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing.
My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.



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My brethren, **these things ought not to be this way.**



How do we obey Jesus' command to love our enemies?

By doing good to our haters.

By blessing our cursers.

By praying for our persecutors.



Luke 6:27-28

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do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you,
pray for those who mistreat you.”



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Sincerely praying for those who
mistreat you will serve to keep your
heart rightly oriented toward them.



Love Your Enemies

What are Jesus' commands?

How do we obey His command to love?

What will change our hearts
toward our enemies?



What will change our hearts?

Remembering God's love for us as His enemies.



Luke 6:35

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expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great,
and you will be sons of the Most High;
for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.



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and you will be sons of the Most High;

**for He Himself is kind to
ungrateful and evil men.**



Colossians 1:21-22

And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death.



Colossians 1:21-22

And although **you were** formerly alienated
and **hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds**, yet He has now
reconciled you in His fleshly body through death.



Colossians 1:21-22

And although you were formerly alienated

and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, **yet He has now**

reconciled you in His fleshly body **through death.**



Titus 3:3-5

For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us.





When you remember that *you* were
an enemy of God engaged in evil,
dependent upon His grace to you,
you will change your heart orientation
toward your enemy and will pray for him.



What will change our hearts?

Remembering God's love for us as His enemies.

Remembering God's mercy for us
as damnable sinners.



Luke 6:35-36

“But love your enemies...
Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”



Luke 6:35-36

“But love your enemies...

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”





Do you remember God's mercy to you?

Do you remember *your need*
for His mercy?



Luke 18:13-14

But the tax collector, standing some distance away,
was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven,
but was beating his breast, saying,
“God, be merciful to me, the sinner!”



Luke 18:13-14

But the tax collector, standing some distance away,
was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven,
but was beating his breast, saying,

“God, be merciful to me, the sinner!”

I tell you, **this man** went to his house justified...
for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
but he who humbles himself will be exalted.



For Reflection

Are you *listening* to Jesus
or just hearing Him?

What is your heart orientation toward
those who hate you or your faith?

Are you remembering who you were
when God saved you?

