

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:27-36
Sermon Title: The Anatomy of love

“Grow in love — Go & Love”

Grow in Love:

To **grow in love** is to mature in our understanding & interactions with the love of God.

Go & Love:

To **go & love** is to be proactive in the practice of love as we move towards its perfection.

“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹ And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³² “If you love those who love you, what benefit 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 benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. 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, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:27-36

What is love:

“But I say to you who hear, Love....”

Love is a **feeling** & an **action**.

Jesus calls us to love with **sincere actions**.

Who to love:

Love **your enemies**, do good to those who **hate you**, ²⁸ bless those who **curse you**, pray for those who **abuse you**. ²⁹ To one who **strikes you** on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away **your cloak** do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who **begs from you**, and from one who **takes away your goods** do not demand them back.

Jesus calls us to love **people we're connected to**, not only people we come across.

Jesus calls us to love **our enemies**.

People who've done us harm & wish us harm.

People who don't deserve it & can never earn it.

*People we've excluded from having to **or** lowered the bar for how.*

How to love:

³¹ And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

Love your enemies, **do good** to those who hate you, ²⁸ **ble^ss** those who curse you, **pray** for those who abuse you. ²⁹ To one who strikes you on the cheek, **offer the other also**, and from one who takes away your cloak **do not withhold your tunic either**. ³⁰ **Give** to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods **do not demand them back**.

Jesus calls us to a 100-0 love that goes beyond our limits.

By this **we know love**, that **he laid down his life** for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

1 John 3:16

Jesus' life is the example of how we're called to love.

4 words for freedom

You can't, He can

You can't, He has

You fail, He can't.

You fail, He Wont

Double Down

They don't deserve it, neither do you, fam (insert preferred cultural colloquial such as chief)

They won't receive it, not your job, fam (insert preferred cultural colloquial such as chief)

Why to love:

³² "If you love those who love you, **what benefit 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 benefit is that to you?** For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, **what credit is that to you?** Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. 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**, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and **your reward will be great**,

There is personal gain to godliness.

But godliness with contentment is **great gain**,

1 Timothy 6:6

For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
the Lord bestows favor and honor.

**No good thing does he withhold
from those who walk uprightly.**

Psalm 84:11

²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel,³⁰**who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time**, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and **in the age to come eternal life**.

Mark 10:29-30

There is communal gain to godliness.

“ _____, one another”

Romans 15:7, Philippians 2:3, Ephesians 4:2, 1 Corinthians 16:20, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13, Romans 12:10, Galatians 5:13, 1 Thessalonians 4:18, James 5:16, 1 Peter 4:9, Hebrews 10:24, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Galatians 6:2.

There is missional gain to godliness.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that **they may see your good works** and **give glory** to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should **suffer for righteousness' sake**, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to **anyone who asks you** for a reason for the hope that is in you

1 Peter 3:13-15

you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as **your Father** is merciful.

See **what kind of love** the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

1 John 3:1

The love of God goes beyond a cease fire, it turns enemies into family.

We love because **he first loved us**.

1 John 4:19

God's love is *an eternal fact of the universe*

-Tim Mackie.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his *steadfast love* endures forever.
Psalm 136:1 (26 times)

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:13

The love of God is enduring, unconditional, & sacrificial; it is an ocean without a bottom.

Jesus calls us to love because there's great gain to godliness & we've been greatly loved by God.

Identify the place in your life that you need to be reminded of & encouraged by the love of God.

Identify the people in your life that you've lowered the bar of loving, create a plan to raise it.

Pray for yourself (Psalm 119:23)

Pray for them (Luke 23:34)

Proceed with caution, confidence, community, & specificity (1 Timothy 5:25)

Evaluate with community, rinse, & repeat (Hebrews 10:24)