

## **Sermon 34: Loving like your Heavenly Father: Luke 6:27-36**

**Text: Luke 6:27-36** “But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful...”

**Summary:** God’s children have been saved in part to be instruments in His hands to love the unlovely and to visibly demonstrate His patience and grace.

**Proposition:** God wants us to love our neighbors even those who hate us.

### **Section 1: Clarifications:**

- **Christ’s teaching wasn’t made without context or qualification:**
  - Context should always drive our understanding of a passage.
  - We need to consider the limitations that may be implied.
  - We need to consider how these scriptures are applied in other contexts.
- **It was made under the Law and didn’t contradict it.**

- **There is a difference between affirming, contradicting, and further developing a concept:**
  - **He came to fulfill the law: Matthew 5:17** “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil...”
  - **He came to affirm what stands with God’s authority: Matthew 4:4** “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God...”
  - **He came to confront the misrepresentations that didn’t carry His authority: Matthew 5:38-39** “Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you...”
  - **He came to provide a better way that was still consistent with the first: John 13:34** “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another...”
- **His teaching isn’t against the proper roles of government to restrain evil, self-defense, or going to war:**
  - **Christ on self-defense: Luke 22:36** “He that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one...”
  - **Paul on the proper role of government: Romans 13:4** “He is the minister of God to thee for good...he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil...”
  - **John the Baptist on the military: Luke 3:14** “Soldiers likewise demanded of him...what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages...”
- **His focus was narrow and specific:**
  - Interpersonal relationships leading to reconciliation...
  - Religious persecution leading to evangelism...

## Section 2: Details: Three important details

- **Christ's teaching is distinct: 6:27** "But I say unto you which hear..."
- **It produces a distinct mindset: 6:32-34** "If ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again..."
- **It is filled with patience, self-control, and grace:** "Love your enemies..."
  - **It does good to others: 6:27** "Do good to them which hate you..."
  - **It speaks well of others: 6:28** "Bless them that curse you..."
  - **It desires a redemptive end rather than vengeance: 6:28** "Pray for them which despitefully use you..."
  - **It is patient when insulted: 6:29** "Unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other..."
  - **It is patient when mistreated: 6:29** "Him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also."
  - **It is benevolent when undeserved: 6:29** "Give to every man that asketh of thee..."
  - **It refuses to maintain meticulous records of wrong: 6:30** "Of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again..."
  - **It treats people with the dignity: 6:31** "As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise..."
- **Let me put it another way: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7** "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all

things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things...”

**Section 3: Focus: 6:35-36** “Your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful...”

- **You will experience three rich blessings:**
  - **Implied: Your will have a deeper appreciation for your Father’s character: 6:35-36** “He is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful...”
  - **Stated explicitly:**
    - **You will receive His commendation: 6:35** “Your reward shall be great...”
    - **People will recognize your relationship to your Father: 6:35** “ye shall be the children of the Highest...”

**Section 4: Application: 1 John 4:7-12** “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God...If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us...”

- **When you experience interpersonal issues:**
  - **Enemy: Romans 12:17-21** “Recompense to no man evil for evil...If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men...avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink...Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good...”
  - **Brother: Colossians 3:12-16** “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a

quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity...And let the peace of God rule in your hearts...Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom..."

- **When you experience religious persecution: 1 Peter 3:8-18** "Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil...if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God..."

**Conclusion:** God wants us to love our neighbors even those who hate us.

- We need to think about the way God deals with His enemies.
- We need to honestly examine why we demand our rights so quickly.
- We need to think about more than our immediate comfort or honor.
- We need to be prepared to face opposition for our identification with Christ.

- We need to consider the implications of being a channel of God's love