

THE RIGHT KIND OF LOVE | LUKE 6:27-36 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 8/24/25

I. Love Actions (27-36) | II. Love Analysis (32-34) | III. Love's Affirmation (35-36)

INTRO: Jesus continues His **Sermon on the Plain**, teaching His disciples how to live for the coming kingdom (6:17-49). – But in this section, Jesus' teaching necessitates LOVE as a Common Grace that His disciples must learn to extend, to even their worst enemies. I've entitled today's sermon: **THE RIGHT KIND OF LOVE**.

- In classical Greek, there are 4 primary words used for LOVE: **EROS** (passionate, romantic love); **PHILEO** (deep friendship, brotherly love); **STORGE** (familial love, empathy); and **AGAPE** (unconditional, self-sacrificing love).

I. LOVE ACTIONS (27-31) – Love is not just a word, it's an action. And **Kingdom Living requires Kingdom Love!** – Jesus underlines the ACT: **WHAT LOVE IS... IS WHAT LOVE DOES!** – **GOD IS LOVE** (1 John 4:8b) – In fact, throughout scripture God generally demonstrates His common Love and Grace to all mankind. – Ultimately, **HE PROVED His love to all with ACTION**, (John 3:16)! *Even to those who would reject Him!*

- Jesus understood that His disciples would become Citizens of His Kingdom, and as a result they too would have enemies in this world (John 15:18). So, Jesus teaches how to respond to them with The Right Kind of Love! A love that they were not used to... a love which would shake them at their core!
- If we SAY that we are His disciples, then we too must manifest the same love to all because we are citizens of His Kingdom. (1 John 4:8) says, *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.* – Elsewhere in scripture, Jesus would describe Kingdom Love as a **Commandment**: (John 13:34) *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.* Jesus then said that LOVE would be PROOF *"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* (John 13:35)
- Great... so then, all we have to do is **LOVE ONE ANOTHER!** – **Easy Peezy!** *'I'm gonna do great in God's Kingdom... Ha!* – **Not so fast!** – Jesus teaches that in order for our Love to be True, it must first be Tried and Tested. – The trying involves Relationships and the testing's involves the Things we Possess: Both would require the Right Kind of Love! *Let's examine the first...*

A. Love Your Enemies (27-29) – **READ:** Notice that Jesus again communicates His **ultimate authority on an issue**. He does quote a **Rabbi, Scribe, or Pharisee!** He says... *"But I say to you."* – In Matthew's account He recalls the Law (Lev 19:18) and corrects the misinterpretation of the religious leaders, (Matt 5:43-44a), *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies..."* – Jesus statement was the **EXACT OPPOSITE** of the *Scribes and Pharisee's explanations*.

- Jesus's teaching set a much Higher Standard: Love for one's neighbor should extend even to those neighbors who are enemies! – Notice the 5 Actions involved:

1. Love (27a) – Love is the strongest nature of God, and if we are His followers, then we should manifest it towards ALL... **YES, EVEN OUR ENEMIES!** – For the record: an **ENEMY** is a person who is actively opposed or hostile to someone or something, as mentioned in (v.22).

- We all have Enemies... because Jesus had them: (John 15:18) *"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you."*
- We all have Enemies, but how do you treat them? *Crickets...*
- Jesus' teaching was directed to those who hear! – Only true disciples will follow Jesus' correct meaning of the Law! P/A – *If you are a disciple of Christ, How are you hearing this?*

- How does one begin to Love His enemy? **FORGIVE THEM** – (Prov 10:12) declares, *Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins*; and the apostle Peter stated the same in (1 Pet 4:8).

P/A – Even if you were wronged, **The Right Kind of Love** can be used by God to change our enemies into our friends. This is just the first step!

How else can one begin to Love His enemy? **SERVE THEM...**

2. Do Good (27b) – By nature, none of us feel the desire to do good to our enemies. (*In fact, we all can think of a few negative things that we would like to do to them*). However, Jesus told His disciples to manifest **Doing Good** within their lives. – **Doing Good to your enemies instead of retaliating affects them in a greater way than avenging yourself.** – (Prov 25:21-22) says, *If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; ²² for so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the LORD will reward you.*

Thirdly, disciple of Christ are to...

3. Bless Others (28a) – When someone **curses us**, it seems weird to return a blessing on their lives after causing us pain or even fear. **This is extremely difficult to learn!** – A disciple must learn to speak well of those who speak ill of us! – *Barclay* comments on this, *“We cannot love our enemies as we love our nearest and dearest. To do so would be unnatural, impossible, and even wrong. But we can see to it that, no matter what a man does to us, even if he insults, ill-treats and injures us, we will seek nothing but his highest good.”* – Barclay

P/A – The ability to Bless those who curse us confirms that God’s Love is being perfected in us... and that is **The Right Kind of Love**. – Remember... **PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR** (1 John 4:18)

The 4th action mentioned is to...

4. Pray (28b) – **It is hard to hate someone that you pray for!** – The best example of a disciple of Jesus Christ praying for His enemies is illustrated in the **Life of Stephen**; who in (Acts 7:60) was being stoned and about to die; *then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.* **This was his prayer for his enemy!** (*the 1st martyr entered the kingdom*)

P/A – **It is Rightful to Pray** for those who are **Spiteful towards us!** (*Trust God to administer His right response!*)

Which leads us to the 5th action involved with loving our Enemies...

5. Offer Ourselves (29) – In Matthew’s account (Matt 5:38-42), Jesus provides greater details where He calls Christians to surrender their personal rights. In fact, He says, **“Not to resist an evil person.”**

- It’s important to know that when Jesus spoke of being stricken on the one cheek, it was culturally understood as a Deep Insult, not a physical attack. – Furthermore, this is **NOT** speaking of societal evil, which governments are to reprove (Rom 13:1-4).
- Jesus teaches that **the Right Kind of Love** is willing to yield to our enemies personal attacks without retaliation! – Jesus actually **demonstrated this at the cross**, as prophesied – (Isa 50:6) *I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheek to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.*

P/A – **Love is not an Easy Peezy action, but it is the right action... IT’S SACRIFICIAL!** – Regardless of how we feel about them, Love for our enemies does something for them. – If we wait for a warm, fuzzy feeling deep within.... we may never love them! – *Jesus goes on to teach that we are to HOLD NOTHING BACK...*

B. Give Everything (30-31) – **READ:** The Way of Love goes much deeper. **We should not hold on to possessions so tightly.** But be ready to give cheerfully... *God loves a cheerful Giver!* (2 Cor 9:7)

1. To Everyone who Asks (30a) – Here Jesus teaches generosity towards the less fortunate. – Because God is a generous giver; it **HELPS US to practice the same.**

- As we give, God will always supply our needs. (Prov 11:25) says, *The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.*

2. **To those who Steal from you (30b)** – When someone steals your **favorite jacket**, love is willing to offer your shirt as well. Love never turns away from any genuine case of need. When **unjustly deprived** of its property, The Right Kind of Love does not ask that it be returned. – (Phil 4:19) *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

3. **The Ultimate Principle of Good (31)** – *And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them* **Likewise**, aka **The Golden Rule**. – Before Jesus stated this, the great Jewish scholar Hillel was asked if he could summarize the Law and the Prophets for a potential convert to Judaism. Hillel told him: *“What is hateful to you, do not to your neighbor: that is the whole Torah, while the rest is the commentary thereof; go and learn it”* (Babylonian Talmud: Tractate Shabbath, Folio 31a). – **But Jesus’ statement was positive, regarding Goodness**. – Simply defined, we are to Treat Others with the same kindness and consideration as you would like to receive. – **This is only possible by yielding to God’s agape love and Holy Spirit.** (Matt. 5:43-45; Jn. 13:34-35; 1 Cor. 13; Eph. 5:18)

- Although this rule makes it easier to comprehend, it doesn't make following it any simpler.
- **How do we obey the Golden Rule?** *Instead of seeking to have others meet our needs* – **we focus on meeting their needs**. We serve them, care for them, we pray for them, and we sacrifice for them. This is the Right Kind of Love!

II. LOVE ANALYSIS (32-34) – **READ:** *Jesus now instructs His followers to examine themselves*. – **When you bless others, is it conditional?** – Because our relationships with people can often be complicated, **it is essential** that a disciple of Christ examine his or her own motives. – **Three of His points are to be analyzed...**

A. Analyze Your Love (32) – *Even unsaved men can love those who love them!* This is natural behavior, so common that it makes no impact on the world of unsaved men. – Are you one who **“THINKS”** that you show a lot of love? – **How do I test this?** – **TRUE LOVE BUILDS OTHERS UP**, (1 Cor 8:1) *We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies* – Ask: Is it for them? Or is it for me?

- **Agape Love has distinct characteristics:** (1 Cor 13:4-7), *“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.* (Pretty simple... only 18 Love Actions mentioned ...ehhh.)

B. Analyze Your Good Works (33) – *Do we even have any?* – As Jesus lists these areas to analyze, He includes the mention of CREDIT with each, **comparing Our Actions** to having either good or bad credit? He also compares our handling of Love, Works and Lending *to that of Sinners in the world...* **who have no standard!** – If we are Jesus’ disciples we are to be different ? **Because...**

- We are citizens of God’s heavenly Kingdom
- We claim to be renewed, repentant, and redeemed by Jesus Christ.
- We have a power that others do not have (Phil 4:13)
- We have the Spirit of God dwelling within us (Rom 8:9)

P/A – **5 times** in Titus the apostle Paul mentions the necessity for Good Works, **but I’ll give you one:** *This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.* (Titus 3:8) – *And thirdly we are to...*

C. Analyze Your Lending (34) – Banks and Loan companies will *lend money* for reason of collecting interest. Is this where we get our standard from? Or do you do it because you LOVE?

P/A – *If our handling of LOVE is comparable to financial credit*, some of us would be in serious trouble, because we struggle with balancing our own checkbooks! – **Analyzing our LOVE helps provide Balance!**

Jesus summarizes His thoughts with a...

III. LOVE AFFIRMATION (35-36) – **READ:** These two verses reveal that when we exercise **The Right Kind of Love**, it displays that that **we belong to God** and that **His love is being perfected in us!** (1 John 4:12), *No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.*

A. Expect Nothing in Return (35) – **The Right Kind of Love** doesn't look for rewards from man because **our expectation is from our Heavenly father**. Our priority is to be pleasing in sight, longing to hear those words in the end: **Well, done!** (Luke 19:17) – Our expectation is from God, (Ps 62:5) *My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him.*

B. Exemplify Mercy as God (36) – **ACT LIKE YOUR FATHER: Be kind to the unthankful and be merciful!**, for this is **how God treats sinful mankind!** – When we are loving our enemies, doing good to them, lending and hoping for nothing in return, **such behavior is distinctly Christian in the eyes of God. God will affirm your world as sons of God.**

CLOSING THOUGHTS: Jesus Christ demonstrated **“The Right Kind of Love”** for us to follow. So, we know what it looks like! – But now we need the help of the Holy Spirit to transform us from our old selfish ways!

- **Walk in Love:** *Therefore, be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. (Eph 5:1-2)*
- **Walk in Light:** (Matt 5:16) *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*