

**Love, an Abused Word**

What is the heart of Jesus’ message?

*1 Timothy 1:5 “The goal of our instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and a sincere faith.”*

*Galatians 5:6 “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.”*

*Matthew 22:36-40 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

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

**Love Your Enemies (vv. 27-30)**

Four commands

Four illustrations

Is it literal or something else?

**Love Like You Want to Be Loved (v. 31)**

The Golden Rule

*Helpfully clarified: “As you wish to be treated with sensitivity to your preferences, so treat others with sensitivity to their preferences.” – Darrell Bock*

**Love Like God Loves You (vv. 32-35)**

Living for God's reward

*What benefit is that to you?*

Loving like God's Son

*Why should we be merciful to the evil and ungrateful? (v. 36)*

***The story of the successful mission to evangelize the Waorani people.***

**Questions for Personal Study**

1. Do you agree that love of God and others is the heart of Jesus' message?
2. Why is loving your enemies a supernatural thing to do?
3. What is the principle behind the Golden Rule? Are you able to practice it?
4. How is God kind to the ungrateful and the evil? Why is this principle the basis for why you should be merciful to your enemies?