

## **HUG YOUR HATERS!**

By Pastor Lee Allen Jenkins

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### **God uses haters to promote us, not defeat us!**

*But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also.*

*Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. Do to others as you would like them to do to you.*

*If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.*

*Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for He is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.*

**Luke 6:27-36 (NLT)**

**One of life's most difficult tests is whether we will be good to people who are not good to us.**

### **How To Hug Your Haters:**

#### **1. Love them!**

*But to you who are willing to listen, I say, **Love your enemies!***

**Luke 6:27a (NLT)**

#### **2. Do good to them!**

*But to you who are willing to listen, I say **Do good to those who hate you.***

**Luke 6:27b (NLT)**

*If your enemies are hungry, **feed them.** If they are thirsty, **give them something to drink.** In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.*

**Romans 12:20 (NLT)**

See that no one pays back evil for evil, but *always try to do good* to each other and to all people. **1 Thessalonians 5:15 (NLT)**

### 3. **Bless** them!

But to you who are willing to listen, I say *Bless those who curse you.*  
**Luke 6:28a (NLT)**

*Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.*  
**Romans 12:14 (NLT)**

### 4. **Pray** for them!

But to you who are willing to listen, I say *Pray for those who hurt you.*  
**Luke 6:28b (NLT)**

*"As much as you pray for George Floyd's family,  
gotta also pray for the police officers who were involved in this evil.  
As hard as it is, pray for them instead of hating them...  
pray that God changes their hearts."*

**Michael Porter of the Denver Nuggets**

Jesus said, "Father, *forgive them*, for they don't know what they are doing."  
**Luke 23:34a (NLT)**

He (Stephen) fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, *don't charge them with this sin!*"  
And with that, he died. **Acts 7:60 (NLT)**

### **Practical Things To Do When Someone Hurts You:**

- **Don't seek revenge!**

*Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you His blessing.* **1 Peter 3:9 (NLT)**

- **Graciously communicate the pain to the offender.**

*If your fellow believer sins against you, go and tell him in private what he did wrong. If he listens to you, you have helped that person to be your brother or sister again.*

*But if he refuses to listen, go to him again and take one or two other people with you. Every case may be proved by two or three witnesses.*

*If he refuses to listen to them, [tell the church](#). If he refuses to listen to the church, then treat him like a person who does not believe in God or like a tax collector. **Matthew 18: 15-17 (NCV)***

- **Don't treat the pain like a pet!**
- **Don't allow the pain to kill the relationship.**

### **How Did Jesus Hug His Haters (Us)?**

*Christ died for the [ungodly](#). **Romans 5:6b (NIV)***

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: [While we were still sinners](#), Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8 (NIV)***

*We were God's enemies, but he made us his friends through the death of his Son. Now that we are God's friends, how much more will we be saved by Christ's life! **Romans 5:10 (GNT)***

