

Jesus and Your Enemies

April 13, 2025 ▪ Brad Manley

General Guideline for _____. 31

Guidelines for Relationships with _____. 27-28

Guidelines for _____. 29-30

The _____ for Jesus' Ethic of Relationships. 32-36

Luke 6:27-36

²⁷ "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." (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What's an act of kindness you witnessed or experienced recently that made a big impact on you?

Read & Discuss: Luke 6:27-36

1. What has been your experience in applying verses 27-28? What do you think Jesus' original audience—people living under Roman rule—might have felt upon hearing this teaching? What are ways following Jesus' instruction in these verses could lead to positive outcomes?
2. In telling His followers how to respond to various circumstances, Jesus is likely using exaggeration (hyperbole) to stress His point. What underlying virtues do you think Jesus intends to teach His followers through these words? How would you sum up His message? (Does this teaching negate a person's ability to set relationship boundaries? How might Scripture help us balance these ideas?)
3. In verse 31 Jesus gives a well-known general principle for guiding our relationships with others, which is based on how we naturally care for ourselves. How do you see this same ideal present in both Matthew 22:36-39 and Ephesians 5:25-29? How does this principle challenge our natural instincts when dealing with difficult people or situations?
4. What value(s) does Jesus seem to be encouraging in His followers in verses 32-34? How do these values display our understanding of the Christian Gospel? How does loving those who are difficult to love and showing kindness to those who don't show kindness to us help us grow in Christlikeness?
5. What reasons does Jesus give His followers for following His instructions (vv. 35-36)? How might you explain each of these to a new believer? What else might help us cultivate this sort of selfless and generous love—especially when it feels difficult?
6. Verse 36 says, "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." In what ways has God shown Himself to be merciful to you? Where are there opportunities for us to show mercy in everyday life?
7. How does the world teach us to think about our adversaries—or even those who may disagree with us? In light of this passage, how would you summarize the way Jesus challenges us to think?

Apply: In what specific ways has this instruction from Jesus changed your perspective in regard to difficult relationships you have or have had? What is one small, concrete step you could take this week to better live out one of these instructions in a challenging relationship?

Pray: Pray that we grow in our ability to treat all others as Christ would.