



how sweet it is!

May 7, 2017 - Pastor Bruce French

What should we do when we face antagonism?

Principle one:

We should offer a _____ when we are _____ . Luke 6:28a; 6:32

Application one:

Trust that God's _____ leads to _____ .

Principle two:

We should say a _____ when we are _____ . Luke 6:28b-29; 6:33

Application two:

Trust that God is a _____ and fair _____ .

Principle three:

We should provide _____ when we see a _____ . Luke 6:30; 6:34-35a

Application three:

Trust that God _____ those who are _____ .

TAKE HOME TRUTH

We should offer _____ when we are _____ . Luke 6:35b-37

Today's Core Virtue:

Love: "I unconditionally love others."
(From 1 John 4:10-12)



Deeper Connection Study

Christians enjoy talking about loving others. Yet who are the “others” we are called to love? According to Jesus, we are called to love others with exceptional love, not with love that takes exception. In other words, no one should be excluded. *Even our enemies?* Consider Jesus’ words on the matter.
Today’s Core Virtue discussed: Love.

Read Luke 6:27-36 (cf. Matt. 5:43-47)

1. Describe the contrast between what you want to do to enemies and what Jesus calls you to do (vv. 27-28). Why is there such a discrepancy?
2. What four illustrations did Jesus use (vv. 29-30)? What is the essence of what Jesus says a disciple should do when they have been wronged (cf. Rom. 12:17-21)?
3. Why are Jesus’ words so shocking? How does it challenge you? How can your enemies become special objects of your love?
4. What is the benefit of loving those who love you? What is the drawback?
5. What does it mean to truly love our enemies (cf. Ex. 23:4-5; Deut. 22:1-4; Prov. 24:29; 25:21-22)? Do we as Christians love the way Jesus loved? What does this love look like (cf. Prov. 16:7)?
6. How do you exemplify mercy and love to people hostile to Christians and Christianity? Why does Jesus even ask us to consider this?

PRAYER TO THE POINT: Praise God for his love and mercy. Pray for God to help you love your enemies. Ask God to empower you to be a person who deeply loves others in Jesus’ name.

21st Century Jesus

Luke 6:27-36



It is disappointing that even when we act in a way that is noble and kind, we periodically face opposition and antagonism. Sometimes that assault comes from an impatient driver who stands on his horn when we don’t move in a split second after the light turns green. Other times it comes from a relative that is not happy with the location we picked for the family gathering. There are even times when we are slandered with titles like bigot and intolerant because we hold to a divine conviction. What are we to do when we are under this type of unfair fire?

First, we shouldn’t be surprised or caught off guard. Jesus warned his disciples that in this world they would face trouble. He even proclaimed that if society persecuted him, they would persecute his followers even more. Thankfully though, he didn’t stop there, but went on to provide some tangible tools for his followers to pick up when they are under attack.