

HOW TO LOVE YOUR POLITICAL ENEMIES

Luke 6:27-35: “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. **29** If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. **30** Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. **31** Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. **33** And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. **34** And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. **35** But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

WHAT? _____ your enemies.

Luke 6:27

HOW?

• **With your** _____

Luke 6:28; see also Luke 23:34; Acts 7:60; Romans 12:14; 1 Corinthians 4:12; 1 Peter 3:9

• **With your** _____

Luke 6:28

• **With your** _____

Luke 6:29-30; see also Isaiah 50:6; 53:7; Luke 23:34; Romans 12:17, 19; 1 Thess. 5:15; 1 Peter 2:23

- **With your _____**

Luke 6:30-31, 35; see also Exodus 23:4-5; Matthew 5:41; Romans 12:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:15

WHY?

- **Because love for enemies _____ God**

Luke 6:32-35; see also Revelation 22:12

- **Because love for enemies _____ God**

Luke 6:35; see also Matthew 5:45; Ephesians 5:1-2

Transformed by the Truth

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. If your political “enemies” include both those whose views you dislike and those who think less of you because of your views, who are your enemies? Who is Enemy #1 in your life?

2. Read Luke 6:28. How can you begin, or continue, to “bless those who curse you”? How, specifically, do you think God wants you to “pray for those who mistreat you”?

3. Read Luke 6:29-30. How is the Spirit of God nudging you to apply the teaching of Jesus in these verses to relationships or circumstances in your life?

4. Read Luke 6:31. What do you wish Enemy #1 would do for you?

5. Read Luke 6:32-35. Do you think the rewards outweigh the risks of loving your enemies? Why or why not? What objections must you overcome to obey Christ's teaching?

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