

Bible Study Questions

Above All, Love: The 'Who' and 'What' of Christian Love: "Love Your Enemies"

Focus

God has been merciful and loving to us who were once His enemies, and thus we should seek to imitate our Father by so loving our enemies in the hope that they too will come to know God as their Father.

Read

[Luke 6:27-36](#)

Listen

CCNYC teaching on the sermon series, "*Above All, Love*", which can be found on our [website](#)

As you study this passage on your own or with a small group of others, here are some questions for study, reflection, and application.

Questions for Review

(The purpose of these opening questions is to review the passage that was recently preached on in order to make sure that everyone understands the basic structure, events, people, and point of the passage.)

1. Work through some basic review questions for this passage – for example:
 - What's the context? (Where are we in this book of the Bible; the New Testament; and the Bible as a whole?)
 - Who are the people and/or situations that this passage is addressing?
 - What clues are there about the author and his circumstances?
 - Is there a conflict or high point in this passage? (What is the structure of this passage that builds to that point?)
 - What was the main point or theme of this passage that was identified in Sunday's sermon?
 - What surprises are there in this passage?
2. What questions do you still have about this passage that you'd like to discuss?

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Questions for Reflection and Application

(The purpose of these reflection questions is to help each other not just understand what the passage is saying, but to think more deeply about what it means so that we can then accurately apply it to our lives today.)

1. It has been said that this commandment to 'love your enemies' is the hardest commandment. Do you agree? Why is that?
2. How does Jesus' teaching about persecution in Luke 6:22-23 help inform the context for this command to 'love your enemies'?
3. Sunday's sermon mentioned some cultural points of context related to how first-century synagogues would treat those they believed to be false teachers. With that in mind, how would you summarize what Jesus is calling for in verses 27-31?
4. What are some ways Christians might be rejected and insulted today for their commitment to Jesus?
5. How might we show a persistent kind of love in the face of such persecution?
6. If 'turning the other cheek' means making yourself vulnerable to further rejection and insult for the sake of the gospel, how willing are you right now to do that? What might help you grow in your willingness and readiness to do that?
7. Why is it important to first recognize that we are unable to love like this in our strength?
8. How does the gospel empower us to love our enemies?
9. Do you have enemies who are opposed to you, who maybe even hate you, specifically because you follow Jesus? Or who just seem to have it out for you for no apparent reason? Think through the various ways this passage is

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calling you to love them. What are some specific ways you can love them? Think through actions, words, prayers, etc.

10. Have you ever seen enemies won to Christ because they were so impacted by the kind of generous, persistent, sacrificial love of which Jesus speaks in this passage? How might we pray and act for this very thing?

Ongoing questions to ask of any passage:

1. How does the gospel inform your understanding and application of this passage?
2. Has studying this passage in any way challenged your understanding about who God is and what He's like? If so, how so?
3. In light of studying this passage, is there any behavior or attitude that you need to personally address in your life? If so, how specifically will you address it?
4. How does this passage help you to love, trust, and worship Jesus more fully?