

What Did Jesus Mean When He Said . . .

Pastor Ray Swash

Love your enemies . . .

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. 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.

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 sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6.32-36 (NIV)

There is no commandment of Jesus which has caused so much discussion and debate as the commandment to love our enemies

This is 'The TRUE Secret' - it's about Love?

True Love is PROACTIVE not REACTIVE

"Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them!"

Luke 6.31 (MESSAGE)

"We do not do unto others as we would wish them to do unto us, because the whole time we are thinking only about ourselves and we never transfer our thoughts to the other person."

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

How is this possible?

What Love can't do . . .

- It cannot JUDGE
- It cannot CONDEMN

Do not judge others, and God will not judge you; do not condemn others, and God will not condemn you; forgive others, and God will forgive you.

Luke 6.37 (GNT)

Christ-following isn't limited to: "THE GOLDEN RULE" but commands us to even love when hate is the response.

Guiding Principles:

- Treat people like we desire to be treated (Luke 6.31)
- Treat people with Mercy as God treats them (Luke 6.36)

Choose FORGIVENESS over Fairness

How many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Is seven times enough? Jesus answered: "Not just seven times, but seventy-seven times!"

Matthew 18.21-22 (CEV)

Choose RECONCILIATION over Restitution

When a person's ways are pleasing to the Lord, they make even their enemies live at peace with them.

Proverbs 16.7 (TNIV)

Choose MERCY over Madness

Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9.13 (ESV)