



The Word at Work

Love Your Enemies

Reading the Word

Key Text: Luke 6:27-36

Understanding the Word

1. Love your enemies {what you think}

Love is very practical but has its roots in how we think. Right actions follow right thoughts. (The negative is also true.)

Love = *Agape* (the God-kind of love)

Choosing to love. See 1 Cor.13:4-7.

God wants us to be like him. v.36, Matt.5:48. Also Phil.3:12.

2. Do good to those who hate you {what you do}

Rom.12:18-21.

Practical examples: Ex.23:4 and David's dealings with Saul in 1 Sam.24 & 26.

3. Bless those who curse you {what you say}

Guard your tongue. Rom.12:14, Job 31:29-30.

Jesus' example: Luke 23:34, 1 Pet.2:21-23.

Paul's example: 1 Cor.4:12-13.

4. Pray for those who abuse you {what you pray}

Consider Ps.35:11-18

- v.11-12 these are his enemies
- v.12-14 he prays and fasts for them
- v.15-16 they are still his enemies but he doesn't curse them
- v.17-18 he prays for deliverance from them and gives thanks and praise to God with God's people

Conclusion

Note the law of sowing and reaping in 1 Pet.3:9 and Luke 6:31.

Living as Jesus challenges us to has its rewards. See Luke 6:32-35.

Doing the Word

To Discuss:

1. Who are our enemies? Who is Jesus referring to when he says 'love your enemies'? Consider these verses: Matt.10:36, 12:30, John 15:19, 17:14, Jam.4:4.
2. Discuss ways we, both as individuals and together, can bless those around us. The people we meet from day to day.

To Do:

3. Think about the four headings above. How do you measure up? Think about the steps you will take to become 'perfect' (more like Jesus) – then take them. (Remember Phil.4:13.)
4. Ask God to help you to be more 'outward focussed'. How can you reach out to people with the love of Christ and the gospel? Expect the Holy Spirit to lead you.

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