



OUTRAGEOUS

a call to radical living from the mouth of Jesus himself



WEEK 2 - Love Your Enemies

OVERVIEW

Of all the teachings of Jesus, "love your enemies" must be one of the most quoted, yet least followed commands. Why? Because it's ridiculously countercultural and even against human nature. When we are slapped or persecuted or taken advantage of, the most natural thing in the world is to hate or punish that person in return. And yet Jesus calls us to not just set aside our hatred, but to pick up genuine love in its place!



In some ways, this teaching is a shocking reversal of what we think of as 'justice.' It's the exact opposite of our opponents getting what they deserve. As a result, our natural inclination is to see this as idealistic and extreme. And yet, what would our world look like if we truly approached our enemies in this way? Perhaps, at least in our small spheres of influence, we could begin to push back against worldly hate with a bit of Christlike love.

*But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies!
Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.
Luke 6:27-28*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 6:27-36. How would you define "enemy"? Who is your enemy?
2. How do enemies today compare to enemies in ancient times?
3. Barry suggests that we are God's enemies. How is this possible?
4. What evidence do we have that love is more powerful than hate?
5. How can we be compassionate just as our father is compassionate (v 36)? How can we love as Jesus loves? Give an example of what it would look like to "turn the other cheek" (v 29) today.
6. Do you find it natural to "judge others" or even yourself? What might it look like to extend mercy instead?
7. Tell about a time when someone showed you compassion or "the golden rule" (v 31).
8. In verse 27, Jesus says to "do good to those who hate you". What is a loving, underserved act you could take towards someone who hurt you, embarrassed you, or insulted you?

RESOURCES

gracechurch.us/grow

