

Series Love is...examined love is peacemaking, forgiveness. unconditional. today, Love is... tough... or “Tough Love,” The “tough love” we are dealing with is not the kind of love which justifies being “tough” on the other person (which is sometimes required), but rather is a love which is incredibly tough on us to live out.

NLT RO 13: 8 Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God’s law.

- TO OWE is something THAT IS NOT yet PAID OFF...we are in still in debt
- we are to pay off everything we owe...except love... EXCEPT MEANS IT IS A continuing debt...meaning it will not be paid off..
- And this debt is to love our fellow man...and that debt is owed everyday...
- it is an ongoing debt...every day still in debt to it

Rom 13:10 Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God’s law.

- first know this we all break this law regularly...we do wrong to others in thought word and deed...and these are people we care about...we are troubled to learn from our Lord just how great a debt that is, As it includes everyone...including our enemies, those who hate us, those who curse us...

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

You might be surprised to know The context of this teaching happens immediately after Jesus chooses the 12 apostles...he goes to a field and **begins the introduction to discipleship for the apostles... not with a foundational study of beliefs, but with actions, and explicitly states that those who will listen and act on his words will be sturdy, like a house with a good foundation.**

- you know It is one thing to love those who love us back...it is quite another to choose to love those who have done us wrong...

- **But this is exactly how God loves us....**

*Rom 5: 7 Now, most people would **not** be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. 8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners*

- **Christ died for me to save my eternal life because God loved me... what did I do to possibly earn that?**
- **I was not upright in my relationship with him...nor was I especially good to him in any way...**
- **In fact I contributed nothing to the relationship for Jesus to do this for me except sin against him to do him wrong!**
- **and yet he loved me and sacrificed his life to rescue me...and he says we must do the same to others who contribute hurt and wrong to my relationship with them...that is tough love...**
- **But wait it gets tougher...**

Luke 6:29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. 30 Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back.

- **Remember These practices which our Lord requires here all pertain to our "enemy," the one who hates, curses, mistreats, attacks, and takes advantage of us.**
- **Now understand this... Luke 6:29-30 is geared to those who act hatefully toward us...they have not done criminal actions toward us...**
- **in fact God has given us protection and recourse against those who commit criminal acts against us...**

Rom 13: 3 For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. 4 The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you

should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong.

What Jesus is challenging the ethical relational system of Jesus' day... which was an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth... This is called balanced reciprocal obligation, Which is respond to others in kind!

You know do to others as they do to you! Respect those who respect you...kindness to those who are kind to you...love those who are loving to you.. Those who are harsh to us, be harsh with...

• In other words...You give expecting to be repaid; you invite to your table those who not only are able but will invite you in return.

• You do a favor for someone only if they can repay you in turn.

This ethics of reciprocal obligation greases the economic wheels of Jesus' time And still does today...

The follower of Jesus is to surpass the world's minimum standard in the matter of loving others. For the follower of Jesus must return love to those who hate him...in fact we are to treat them as we would want to be treated...not as we are being treated!

Luke 6:31 Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

- This is by far the more difficult path. If others reciprocate in kind, we are to respond otherwise. We don't reciprocate in kind but in kindness...**
- We are not only to give love for love, and good for good, we are to love our enemies, and to return good for evil.**
- our Lord presses on to contrast the principle...**

Luke 6:32 "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them!"³³ And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much!"³⁴ And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.^{Luke 6:34} And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

- **Sinners is a word for the unsaved.... unsaved People do good to those who can reciprocate. So to act as that is no credit to you! nothing is put to your account...you have been paid back for doing good...or you get even for being done wrong...**
- **but he will show the more excellent way... a *divine charis* or credit that is put to your heavenly account when you act heavenly**

*NIV Luke 6:35 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. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*

- ***The Bible fully supports the idea that God blesses those who bless othersafter they bless others....***
- **Jesus great plan to change how people treat one another... you pay first and receive it back later directly from him...**

Luke 6: 38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.^[c]”

- **Jesus great plan to change how people treat one another... you pay first and receive it back later directly from him...**

Why are the disciples to act like this? Because it is the character of Jesus
***Hebrews 12:2** We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of **the joy** awaiting him, he **endured** the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. ³ Think of all the hostility he **endured** from sinful people; then you won’t become weary and give up.*

- **he endured for love that awaited him...in saving humanity...and the joy it would bring him...**
- **that is what God does...so his children ought..we practice kindness!! to those who owe us.....are in debt to us**

- **We will be merciful...not giving a person (enemy) what they deserve...but what they don't deserve!**
- **Because : This reflects God and He will repay your acts of mercy**

And God will reward us greatly !!! for behaving well! as obedient children of God and servants of the Kingdom! not disobedient Children and disobedient servants

But wait there's more

NLT Luke 6:37 "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.

- **we will not Judge (pronounce final verdict) leave room and hope for change...**
- **we will not condemn... assassinate their being..character or name**
- **we will give all that to God...as he will judge objectively**
- **and we will forgive them ...and in our hearts drop the case...**
- **God sheds grace on the world, gives gifts richly and freely to the creatures *regardless* of the fact of whether we can repay God.**
- **God is merciful because it is God's nature to overflow in acts of loving kindness.**
- **we are children of the light, we don't live in darkness anymore ...we perceive life differently...so we live differently..**
- **Jesus contrasted it this way:**

LK 6:39 He also told them this parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?"

- **While ordinary men live ordinary lives, blind leading the blind What makes sense to us in our human nature? Strike back. Get revenge. Give 'em what they got comin'. Repay...at least get even...Treat others as you are first treated...is considered Blind by Jesus**

- Notice the conflict here...There is a conflict between His will and our natural desires and what makes sense to him and what makes sense to us. operating in our natural desires is the blind leading the blind
- Jesus followers are to live supernatural lives, our eyes have become opened These commands of God call for intentional **aggressive Christian action**. And that, in the face of opposition, hate, persecution, and injustice.
- Here it is, then. While ordinary men live ordinary lives, Jesus followers are to live supernatural lives. While ordinary men love those who love them, Jesus followers are to love those who hate them. And they can do so because they look to God for their reward, not to men.
- Jesus followers can be taken advantage of by men because God is the one who blesses and rewards them. Jesus followers can engage in a kind of “deficit spending” pay it forward...of love because God will always replenish the supply.

We become students with a new teacher

Luke 6:40 A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

Tim put this up...

Lets recap our Teachers Teaching: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. Turn to him the other cheek. Give to everyone who asks of you. Judge as you want to be judged. Forgive as you want forgiveness. Give and it will be given back, The measure you use in each of these will be measured back to you proportionally.

Is it just to do good when harm is done to you? No. Is it just to be struck a second time without resistance? No. Is it just on a cold an blustery day to have not only your outer coat taken away but your inner tunic as well? It wouldn't seem so.

But it is loving and merciful. It is like our Father. It is like Jesus it is a family tradition...

These commands of Jesus call for **aggressive intentional Christian action** in the face of opposition, hate, persecution, and injustice. this does not happen passively...

The things Jesus required, require faith and supernatural enablement. These are not acts which one does in his own strength, in order to be saved, but are acts which one who has been saved does, due to the new mind and the new strength Christ gives through His Spirit.

This is really the central point of Jesus' establishing his new kingdom.

You do good things for people regardless of whether they deserve it or not...we do good things because that is what God does..

Luke 6:35.....because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

- God sheds grace on the world, gives gifts richly and freely to the creatures *regardless* of the fact of whether we can repay God.
- God is merciful because it is God's nature to overflow in acts of loving kindness.
- we are children of the light, we don't live in darkness anymore ...we perceive life differently...so we live differently..

Matt 5: ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.

This the essence of the values of the Kingdom of God to which he invites disciples to enter....Get this and you get the doctrine of the Bible...

Love is tough! Who's in?

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- God sheds grace on the world, gives gifts richly and freely to the creatures *regardless* of the fact of whether we can repay God.
- God is merciful because it is God's nature to overflow in acts of loving kindness.
- we are children of the light, we don't live in darkness anymore ...we perceive life differently...so we live differently..

What will be the essence of the values of the world to which he invites disciples to enter?

LK 6:39 He also told them this parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?"⁴⁰ A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

Notice the conflict here...There is a conflict between His will and our natural desires and what makes sense to him and what makes sense to us. operating in our natural desires is the blind leading the blind

Do you hear the conflict? Do you feel it? What makes sense to us in our human nature? Strike back. Get revenge. Give 'em what they got comin'. Repay...at least get even...Treat others as you are first treated...

These commands of God call for intentional **aggressive Christian action**. And that, in the face of opposition, hate, persecution, and injustice.

- Here it is, then. While ordinary men live ordinary lives, Jesus followers are to live supernatural lives. While ordinary men love those who love them, Jesus followers are to love those who hate them. And they can do so because they look to God for their reward, not to men.
- Jesus followers can be taken advantage of by men because God is the one who blesses and rewards them. Jesus followers can engage in a kind of "deficit spending" pay it forward...of love because God will always replenish the supply.

listen to the statements that Jesus used in this teaching regarding our reactions to our personal enemies.

- *Love your enemies.*
- *Do good to those who hate you.*
- *Bless those who curse you.*
- *Pray for those who mistreat you.*
- *Turn to him the other cheek.*
- *Give to everyone who asks of you.*
- *Judge as you want to be judged*
- *Forgive as you want forgiveness*
- *Give and it will be given back*
- **The measure you use in each of these will be measured back to you proportionally**

Is it **just** to do good when harm is done to you? No. Is it **just** to be struck a second time without resistance? No. Is it **just** on a cold an blustery day to have not only your outer coat taken away but your inner tunic as well? It wouldn't seem so.

But it is loving and merciful. It is like our Father. It is like Jesus it is a family tradition...

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- ***This current world operates like the blind leading the blind..***
- ***we were like that too...***

TIT 3: 3 Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. 4 But— When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, 5 he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. 6 He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. 7 Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying,

and I want you to insist on these teachings so that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good.

God gives his kids sight!!!! to view things differently...from the perspective of the Kingdom of God! because we belong to the Kingdom...

*1 Peter 2:9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no *mercy*; now you have received God's *mercy*.*

- *now we are students becoming like our teacher*

Luke 6:40 A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher

- **learning what real love looks like....**

This is what I call "Tough Love," The "tough love" we are dealing with is not the kind of love which justifies being "tough" on the other person , but rather is a love which is incredibly tough on us to live out end

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As Paul tells us...

*^{1TI 1:15} Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown *mercy**

so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

TIT 3:3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his **mercy**. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life

JAS 3:17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of **mercy** and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

1PE 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received **mercy**, but now you have received **mercy**.

II. Jesus' New Kingdom

But in what does Jesus' new Kingdom consist? What will be the essence of the values of the world to which he invites disciples to enter?

LK 6:39 He also told them this parable: "**Can a blind man lead a blind man?** Will they not both fall into a pit?" ⁴⁰ A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

- **The first thing to note is that the new Kingdom has loose boundaries.**
- **This kingdom is the blind leading the blind**
- **That is, it isn't easy to perceive who the insiders are and who the outsiders.**
- **One is to love the neighbor, to do good to those who hate, to bless those who reproach.**
- **Who, then, is really a member of the new community? The members are the ones who bless others...**

- **Those who bless, which can be just about anyone.**

This is what I call “Tough Love,” The “tough love” we are dealing with is not the kind of love which justifies being “tough” on the other person , but rather is a love which is incredibly tough on us to live out, especially when we are persecuted...

How do we do it??? We love those who mistreat us...

LK 6:26 Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets (those who don't speak the truth). (The heart of the hypocrite...speak well of me at all cost...)

LK 6:27 "But I tell you who hear me: 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 strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. 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. *LK 6:32* "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. *(without motive of gaining praise or avoiding persecution)* Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. *(Because you are doing your acts to please God...*

- **His followers will be characterized by giving without expectation of return.**
- **Therefore : We will be merciful...not giving a person (enemy) what they deserve**
- **we will not Judge (pronounce final verdict) leave room and hope for change**
- **we will not condemn... assassinate their being..character or name**
- **we will give all that to God...and in our hearts drop the case...**
- **Why are the disciples to act like this?**
- **Because : This reflects God and He will repay your acts of mercy**
- **Jesus' new vision is thus rooted deeply in theology--in the character of God and as his followers we are to reflect that character**

- **He is kind and merciful because he chooses to love his enemies...You will not be a hypocrite but you will be a good example...a exemplary son of the most high...a God pleaser not a people fearer**

So... we need to repent of our hypocrisy...claiming God as our God but making the fear of people our God... ..and practice mercy instead of judgment...for the wrongs or persecution they are or have put us through...Choosing to pray for them and Leaving their judgment to God...

When persecuted use tough love... the love which is incredibly tough on us to live out. That is the love of God....which only the Holy Spirit can give....Help us Holy spirit to live it out...

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Romans 5:7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good.

It is instructive that Jesus begins the introduction to discipleship for the masses not with a foundational study of beliefs, but with demonstrable actions, and explicitly states that those who will listen and *act* on his words will be sturdy, like a house with a good foundation.

This is good Why? because when our beliefs are feeling shaky and doubt-ridden, we can fall back on the actions we know are real: *love my enemy, turn the other cheek, give to all, expect nothing back. As we will study today*

As We pick up on Jesus sermon on the mount today...Jesus speaks of three activities where His "kingdom ethic" is most manifest:

In this case, however, we are not dealing with the our debt of love for a husband or wife, or of a friend, or even of a neighbor, but of an enemy....

- If we want people to be kind and gracious toward us, we must be kind and gracious toward them.

- There is nothing particularly noble about following this principle, since we serve our own best interest by being kind toward others.
- Kindness shown toward others tends to be reciprocated toward us. We gain from what we give.
- Much of any kind of counsel in how to relate toward others is based upon the principle of the golden rule.
- It does not rise above the standard which unbelievers set for themselves.

The golden rule, however, is but a minimum requirement. It relates toward with the expectation that our kindness will be returned. It does good so that good will be done for us.

The **golden rule can be followed by any self-seeking person. Obedience to it has little virtue, for it sets a standard which all men would try to keep.**

The golden rule is not bad—it is simply not good enough. Thus,

- **We will be merciful...not giving a person (enemy) what they deserve...but what they don't deserve!**
- **Because : This reflects God and He will repay your acts of mercy**
- **Jesus' new vision is thus rooted deeply in theology--in the character of God.**
- The central thought of this most important passage is embedded in the middle of the text. It is contained in, 35:

" love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back

- **Why are the disciples to act like this?**
- **Because :**

 **This reflects God and He will repay your acts of mercy**

- **Jesus' new vision is thus rooted deeply in theology--in the character of God.**

³⁵ ...*Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.* ³⁶ *Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*

