

FOLLOW CLOSELY

...in Christ's Humility

UPSIDE-DOWN LOVE

October 30, 2016 • Luke 6:27-36 • Pastor Ben Miller

Introduction:

Big Idea: Turn your impulses _____-_____ to love the _____ and _____.

◆ Don't Settle for S_____ L_____. (6:27-28)

◆ Don't Settle for S_____ L_____. (6:29-31)

◆ Don't Settle for S_____ - _____
L_____. (6:32-35)

◆ Pursue H_____ -F_____ -T_____ Love



Personal Reflection and Application:

1. Do you have any legitimate “enemies” in your life that Jesus is calling you to love? If so, who? What makes it difficult to love them, and why should you love them?
2. Would you describe your love toward your enemies as generous or stingy? Why? What steps can you take to be more generous in your love toward them, vulnerably opening yourself up in relationship?
3. How is your love for your enemies perceivably different than the love of those who don’t know Jesus? Is there any hint of self-preservation or self-service in your love for them?
4. What do you believe about the love God has shown you in making you his child through Jesus Christ? How does that belief inform and empower the way you are to love your enemies?

Gospel Community Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why is loving our enemies so difficult?
- 2) Read Luke 6:27-28. Based on the context and the testimony of other passages of scripture, who would fit the type of “enemy” Jesus is calling us to love? Who would not fit that description?
- 3) Read Luke 6:29-31. Consider the meaning of each of the four cultural examples that Jesus gives, and come up with a few contemporary parallels.
- 4) Read Exodus 23:4-9, Proverbs 25:21-22, Isaiah 50:4-7, Lamentations 3:25-33, Romans 12:14-21, and 1 Peter 3:9. How do these verses help us understand the generous (non-“stingy”) love to which we are called, and the motivation behind it?
- 5) Read Luke 6:32-34. Why do godly love and self-preservation stand at odds with one another?
- 6) Read Luke 6:35-36, Romans 5:6-11 and Ephesians 5:1. How does the gospel give us both the example and the power to obey Jesus’ commands to love our enemies?

Breakout Time

Split your group into men and women to pray for one another and hold one another accountable. Catch up on ongoing prayer/accountability requests, and cry out to God for one another and for those to whom you are taking the gospel. Discuss where you need prayer in loving your enemies.