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Love, Relationships & the Church

Part Three - Love Your Enemy

Pastor Carl Toti - March 9-10, 2019

Luke 6:27-36 (NLT)

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. 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. 31 Do to others as you would like them to do to you. 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. 35 “Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. 36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.*

THE FIVE ENEMIES JESUS HIGHLIGHTS

1. PEOPLE WHO _____

Luke 6:27B (NLT)

“...Do good to those who hate you.”

“I don’t believe in such a thing as the criminal mind. Everyone’s mind is criminal; we’re all capable of criminal fantasies and thoughts.”

— Karl Menninger

“Man has in him the need to hate and destroy.”

— Albert Einstein

“those which seek to preserve and unite, and those which seek to destroy and kill.”

— Sigmund Freud

2. PEOPLE WHO _____

Luke 6:28 (NLT)

28a Bless those who curse you.

3. PEOPLE WHO _____

Luke 6:28 (NLT)

28b Pray for those who hurt you.

4. PEOPLE WHO _____

Luke 6:29 (NLT)

29a If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also.

- It doesn't mean we don't stand up to evil.
- It doesn't mean we can't defend ourselves.
- It doesn't mean we don't defend the weak.
- It does not condone pacifism.
- This does not mean that church discipline is wrong. (Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Corinthians 5).
- This doesn't mean you can't stand up for your rights.

John 18:23 (KJV)

23 Jesus answered him, If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me?

Acts 22:25 (CEV)

25 While the soldiers were tying Paul up to be beaten, he asked the officer standing there, "Is it legal to beat a Roman citizen before he has been tried in court?"

*"Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process he does not become a monster. And if you gaze long enough into an abyss, the abyss will gaze back into you."
— Friedrich Nietzsche*

5. PEOPLE WHO _____

Luke 6:29b (NLT)

"...If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also."

Answers:

- 1) HATE
- 2) HEX
- 3) HURT
- 4) HIT
- 5) HUSTLE