

**Luke**  
**See Jesus**  
**Loving Your Enemies**  
**Because God Loved His**  
**Luke 6:27-36**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / April 11, 2021*

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**I. You need to remember that God loved you when you were His enemy.**

**A. If God waited for us to recover from our sin, it never would've happened. Christ died for us while we were weak and ungodly.**

**Romans 5:6** “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”

**Ephesians 2:4-5** “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, **even when we were dead in our trespasses**, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...”

**B. If God waited for us to repent on our own, we wouldn't have a chance. Christ died for us while we were lost, sinful and desperately in need of rescue.**

**Romans 5:8** “but God shows His love for us in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.”

**C. If God waited for us to befriend Him, we would be lost forever. He reconciled us to Himself while we were His enemies.**

**Romans 5:10** “For if **while we were enemies** we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.”

**Colossians 1:21-22** “And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him...”

**II. You're just like Jesus when you ACT in Christian love toward your enemies.**

**Luke 6:27-28** “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”

Christians take steps towards their enemies to show them love. That's what God did for us!

**1 John 4:10,19** “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins...We love because He first loved us.”

**III. You're just like Jesus when you REACT in Christian love to your enemies.**

**Luke 6:29-31** "To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them."

**Romans 12:17** "Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all."

**IV. You're just like Jesus when you extend MERCY and GRACE towards your enemies for the sake of their souls.**

**A. You're never less like the world than when you love your enemies.**

**Luke 6:32-34** "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount."

**B. You're never more like Christ than when you extend mercy (not treating them as they deserve) and grace (going above and beyond to treat them better than they'd ever expect).**

**Luke 6:35-36** "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

**Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:**

1. When was the first time you realized you were an enemy of God?
2. Read Romans 5:1-11, taking note of the "...while we were..." statements in verses 6, 8 & 10. What do those verses tell you about the character of God?
3. How does it feel to know God extended love to us even when we were His enemies?
4. When do you find it most challenging to love your enemies—in how you act towards them, or how you respond to them?
5. How might praying regularly for your enemies help change your attitude and actions towards them?