

Insights from Luke

#17: The Institution of a New Law: Love Your Enemies
Luke 6:27-38

Leviticus 19:18

“¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.”

Matthew 22:34-40

“³⁶ ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ ³⁷ And He said to him, “‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

John 13:18

“¹⁸ I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.’”

Ruth 2:14a

“^{14a} At mealtime Boaz said to her, ‘Come here, that you may eat of the bread and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar.’”

Romans 5:6,8,10

“⁶ For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ...
⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ... ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Luke 6:27-28

“²⁷ But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

Leviticus 19:18

“¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.”

1. Unnatural deeds
2. Unnatural words
3. Unnatural prayers

Luke 6:29-31

“²⁹ Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. ³¹ Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.

Luke 6:34

“³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount.”

Matthew 5:42

“⁴² Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.”

II Thessalonians 3:10

“¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.”

Luke 6:31

“³¹ Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.”

Greek philosopher Isocrates

“Do not do to others that which angers you when they do it to you.”

Confucius

“Never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself.”

The apocryphal book of Tobit

“Do that to no man which thou hatest.”

Rabbi Hillel in summing up the Torah

“What is hateful to you, do not to your neighbor.”

Luke 6:32-34

“³² If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount.”

Luke 6:35-36

“³⁵ 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 Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Luke 6:36-38

“³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure — pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”

The world has a lot to say about love, but has no understanding of selfless expression without expectation of return.

There are four Greek words for love.

**Eye for eye and tooth for tooth
is an Old Testament expression
of God's law given to Israel.
Jesus has set a new law in place
for His church.**

**A heart fully pardoned is
the badge of honor the Christian
should wear prominently on the
lapel of every garment.**

Remember the Gospel