

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

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1) Love your enemies, 2) Do good to those who hate you,
- 3) Bless those who curse you, and 4) Pray for those who mistreat you.

**Love Your Enemies.** Luke 6:26-27 / John 13:34-35 / Proverbs 12:20

### Why Is It So Hard To Love Your Enemies?

You can't love your enemies if you don't love your neighbor who is not your enemy.

You can't love your neighbor if you don't love those who love you.

You can't love those who love you if you don't love yourself.

And you can't love yourself until you have experienced the love Jesus has for you. John 15:12

### The Steps to Loving Your Enemies

Step One – Receive Jesus' Love. 1 John 4:16 We love because he first loved us.

Step Two - Love yourself. Matthew 22:39 “...Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Step Three - Love those who love you. Luke 6:32

Step Four – Love your neighbor. Galatians 5:14 “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Step Five - Love your enemies. Luke 6:26 “Love your enemies.”

**NEXT STEP: Today, I will love, accept, and forgive myself.**

### Love Helps

**1. Realize Your Enemy** \_\_\_\_\_. 1 John 4:16 God is love.

**2. See Your Enemies Through** \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. Matthew 5:13-14 “

**3. Your Enemies Don't Care How Much You Know, Until They Know** \_\_\_\_\_.

*John C. Maxwell “People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care.”*

*Love is intentionally doing something caring or helpful for another person, in Jesus' name, regardless of the cost or consequence to oneself.* (From “Who Cares About Love” by Win Arn, Carroll Nyquist)

1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”

*“You've never looked eyes with anyone that Christ Jesus doesn't love.”*

**NEXT STEP: I will begin to pray to see my enemies through the eyes of faith.**

**4. Remember Love Is a** \_\_\_\_\_. Love is action, not a feeling. 1 John 3:18 / 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

*“Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him.”*

*C.S. Lewis*

**5. Understand the Gospel (\_\_\_\_\_ ) of Jesus Christ Is Love.**

Love motivated God to send Jesus to redeem the world. **“For God so loved...”** (his enemies!) Romans 5:10

### Life App Group and Family Devotional Application

1. What is Jesus' commandment to us? (John 15:12) How has Jesus loved us?
2. Look at the “Five Steps” to loving your enemies. Which step do you tend to struggle with?
3. What do you think about Pastor Scott's thought that most people misstep at “Love Yourself?” (Matthew 22:39) Why do we struggle with “loving ourselves?”
4. Look at the five “Love Helps” points. Which points help you the most?
5. What do you think about the statement “You've never looked eyes with anyone that Christ Jesus doesn't love?” Does understanding that God loves your enemy help you love them too?
6. Explain “Love is a Verb.”
7. What do your enemies need most? \_\_\_\_\_ and God is \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers: Love – Do – Good – Bless – Pray / Receive / yourself / love – you / neighbor / enemies / Needs – God / Eyes – Faith / You – Care / Verb / Good - News