

Throughout history we see various revolutions, military, governmental, social, and economic revolutions. Some revolutions brought change and many failed. Some worked for the good of humankind and others just made things worse. Jesus introduced a Revolutionary idea like none other. His was a revolutionary idea and concept that challenged people during his time on earth and is still a very revolutionary idea that will challenge us as well. Christ Jesus introduced the **Luke 6 Revolution**.

In one of those rare teachable moments, I found myself riding down the interstate with a well-respected, seasoned missionary, pastor, and church planter, Bill Ligon. It was just the two of us talking about ministry-related topics. Of all the questions that I could have asked him that day, I had to take this rare opportunity to ask him, “How do you deal with all of the hurt and rejection that comes with the ministry? When people you have loved and whom you have invested your time and energy in suddenly turn on you, trash talk you, and walk away from your church with not even so much as a goodbye.”

He just smiled and said, “Get out my Bible and open it up to Luke Chapter Six.” As I opened his Bible and scanned the page of Luke 6, there were two verses marked and highlighted. Brother Bill said, “Now, read me verses 27 and 28.” Then I read to him.

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.

There was my answer. Jesus’ revolutionary concept, that when others hurt, attack, or reject you...

Love, Do Good, Bless, and Pray.

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.

These two verses in Luke Chapter 6 are revolutionary! These two verses will change everything.

Luke 6:27-28 will revolutionize you and if applied, will revolutionize your relationships.

Loving, doing good, blessing, and praying will revolutionize our church, community, state, nation and revolutionize our world. Putting these two verses into practice changes everything!

Today, and for the next four weeks, I am going to challenge you to join the “Luke 6 Revolution”. It all starts with you and me as we make a personal decision to allow the Holy Spirit to help us do what Jesus told all of us to do. Putting His words into practice, it will revolutionize you and your world!

Love Your Enemies.

Luke 6:26-27 “But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies...”

John 13:34-35 “A new command I give you: Love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Love: As if loving is not challenging enough, Jesus now tells us to love our enemies.

Your enemy could be Hamas, or your enemy could also be person who is antagonistic towards you. Your enemy could be someone who wants to injure you physically or just injure your business or reputation.

This Revolutionary concept is for our own good and emotional peace. **Proverbs 12:20 Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who promote peace have joy.**

When hurt, our tendency is to plot evil toward our enemies. In a normal world, it would make sense to want to crush and destroy our enemies, or at least stay away from them and avoid them. But Jesus’ way is the way of love. As His children, He is calling us to be like Him and love our enemies.

Why Is It So Hard To Love Your Enemies?

Besides the obvious reasons, why is it so hard to love our enemies? Well, let's dig a little deeper and discover something about ourselves that will help us answer that question.

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 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

- God created you, He loves you unconditionally, and He has forgiven you of all of your sins. We must receive and be filled with God's love so that we can extend that love to others. This is the divine flow of God's love. Love must flow through us to others. God's love for us is the base line and standard of how we should love others.

Here is what I believe is a problem. The whole love process is short circuited because most of us don't love ourselves like Jesus loves us. The divine flow of God's love is blocked at this point.

Jesus said in the second of the great commandment **"Love your neighbor as yourself."** Matthew 22:30

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 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them."**

Step Four – Love your neighbor. **Galatians 5:14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "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 Needs God.

What does your enemy really need in his or her life that would change everything? They need to experience the love of God for them and the transforming work of Christ Jesus.

I John 4:16 God is love. God is love. Love your enemies. *God your enemies.* They need God. Hate your enemies. Satan your enemies. Does your enemy need more of Satan or more of God?

So, your enemy needs God, and your enemy needs love. This is the only thing that will change them. Hate won't change them. Rage won't change them. Revenge won't change them. Only love, only God will change them. **"One touch from God changes everything!"**

2. See Your Enemies Through Eyes of Faith.

Matthew 5:13-14 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. 14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

When Jesus called His disciples the salt of the earth and the light of the world... they were not. They would be, but currently they were not. Jesus saw them as how they would be, through "Eyes of Faith." Begin to see your enemy as God sees them. It will be easier to love them that way.

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

No one will listen to our message of Christ Jesus unless they know that you like them.

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)

Caring means that you have to be moved by one's situation, emotions, or circumstances, and you are doing something to make them feel better about life or to cause their situation to improve, even if they are your enemies.

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

Other people are important to God and, therefore, should be important to us.

"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 Verb.

Love is a verb. Love is action. You may not feel like loving your enemies, but it's not about a feeling.

"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

When it comes to loving your enemies, you can ACT your way into FEELINGS, but you will probably never FEEL your way into ACTION.

Love is not just a feeling or an emotion, Love is an action word!

1 John 3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Love is something that can be seen and others can observe it.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

4 Love is patient, (*Be patient with your enemy*) (Being patient with your enemy sounds easier than loving them, but love is patient.) **love is kind** (*Be kind to your enemy*).

It does not envy (*I won't envy what my enemy gets or has*), **it does not boast** (*I will not be boastful around my enemy*), **it is not proud** (*I will not be prideful and exalt myself over my enemy*).

5 It does not dishonor others (*Don't be rude to your enemy*), **it is not self-seeking** (*I will stop competing with and trying to win over my enemy*), **it is not easily angered** (*Don't let your enemy make you mad*), **it keeps no record of wrongs** (*Keep short accounts with your enemy*).

6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. (*I do not like what my enemy is doing, but I will do all I can do to get the truth to them*).

7 It always protects (*I will protect my enemy's reputation by not gossiping about them*), **always trusts** (*Today, I will give my enemy the benefit of doubt*), **always hopes** (*I hope my enemy will one day be my ally*), **always perseveres** (*I am going to do all that I can do to live in peace with my enemy and preserve this relationship*).

8 Love never fails. If you are going to try to love your enemy, you better believe that LOVE NEVER FAILS! If not, you are fighting a losing battle.

5. Understand the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ Is Love.

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

Romans 5:10 For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

If our enemies can’t see love, they can’t see the Gospel that we preach.

The work that Jesus did on the cross motivates us to love our enemies. The work of the cross causes us to care about the things Jesus cares about, and we love the people that He loves.

My sinful nature once made me an enemy of God, and your sinful nature made you an enemy of God. Thank God that He loved His enemies.

When you love your enemies, you are being like Christ Jesus. When you respond in a Luke 6 manner, you are like your Father in heaven.