



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Luke Sermon Series

Supports Session 7: Compassionate

Sermon Title: "Showing Some Love"

Passage: Luke 6:27-31

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### Connection to Luke 6

In Chapter 6, Luke records Jesus healing many who were sick and demon possessed. It is in this context, that Jesus presents many principles about life in the kingdom of God. One of those principles is the Golden Rule. That principle indicates clearly that humans are to demonstrate love to other humans.

### Introduction/Opening

How much does it cost? How much is it worth? Much of life is consumed with determining the value of items or the affordability of items. If one has an antique, the value of that item is important, especially if it is a family heirloom. Many experts provide evaluations and appraisals for such value.

What is a human life worth? On what can one base the value of a human life? How do we demonstrate that we value human life? Jesus helps us answer these questions, giving us four commands to follow.

### Outline

#### 1. The Commands of Love (vv. 27-28)

Jesus called on those who were listening to apply the rule of love, and He did so with four specific commands.

- a. Love your enemies: This command is to be habitual—love and go on loving. Love in this context is not a feeling but an act of the will that results in loving deeds.
- b. Do good: This again is do good and keep on doing good. This practice of goodness is for those who hate you. The believer should be concerned for the welfare of all people, even those who are opposed to him or her.
- c. Bless those who curse you: This may refer to being confronted verbally or being put out of an organization or group because of faith.
- d. Pray for those who mistreat you: This carries the idea of being mistreated. Believers should show kindness to those who are opposed to the gospel and intercede for them at the throne of grace.

## 2. The Examples to Follow (vv. 29-30)

- a. If someone “hits you on the cheek” then do not retaliate. This concept “involves insult more than injury.”<sup>1</sup> William Hendriksen added: “In other words, Jesus condemns the spirit of lovelessness, hatred, yearning for revenge.”<sup>2</sup>
- b. The second example has to do with someone taking, apparently by force, one’s outer garment, and when it happens the inner garment is given. This reflects an attitude of grace. The Lord Jesus is urging the giving up of possessions willingly.
- c. The third example is “Give to everyone who asks...” This implies that the believer, as a kingdom citizen, is to give without exception.
- d. The fourth example involved someone taking the things a believer owns (theft implied); he or she was not to ask for them back. Paul echoed this idea in Romans 12:19-21 when he reminded his readers that vengeance is God’s prerogative and believers are to conquer evil with good.

## 3. The Principle to Remember (v. 31)

Verse 31 is the summary statement of Jesus’ point.

- a. Based on Leviticus 19:18 – “Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community, but love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.”
- b. Loving neighbors has no limit. A. W. Pink noted: “Whatever you would desire and deem best for yourself were you in *their* place, that is what *you* must do unto others. Nothing less than such a standard of unselfishness is our rule of righteousness.”<sup>3</sup>
- c. Who are the neighbors to whom this rule applies? To whom are believers to show value and dignity? Value and dignity should be shown to the unborn, the elderly, the physically challenged, and to all ethnic groups. This is truly living the rule of love.

## Conclusion

The Creator took on flesh and blood to redeem humans who bear the image of God. Charles Wesley noted this in his hymn, “And Can It Be That I Should Gain”:

He left His Father’s throne above  
So free, so infinite His grace  
Emptied Himself of all but love  
And bled for Adam’s helpless race  
‘Tis mercy all, immense and free  
For O my God, it found out me!  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

How can one show this value and dignity? It will not happen through legislation or persuasion. It will only happen through regeneration and conversion into the family of God.

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1. Robert H. Stein, *The New American Commentary: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture*, ed. David S. Dockery, vol. 24, *Luke* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1992), 207.

2. William Hendriksen, *Exposition of the Gospel According to Luke in New Testament Commentary*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1978), 349.

3. A. W. Pink, “The Golden Rule,” in *An Exposition of the Sermon on the Mount* (1950; repr., Albany, OR: Ages Software, 2000), 384, Adobe PDF.

*Neil Gant is a native of Memphis and now lives in East Tennessee serving as Pastor of the Oakwood Baptist Church in Knoxville since March of 2019. He has served in pastoral ministry for over thirty-nine years. He has been married to the former Lea Gillespie for over thirty-nine years and they have one adult daughter named Anna. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Blue Mountain College and both his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.*

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