



PART 6: LOVING WHAT YOU HATE

Sermon Notes

Text: Matthew 5:38-48

Introduction:

Jesus isn't giving new laws; he is giving examples of what his kingdom citizens will look like. We've been given a new heart, and out of that new heart, new righteousness flows.

1. The Law of Love

v. 38-39, 43-44

Leviticus 24:17-21, Deuteronomy 19:21 - The Law of Reciprocity

"When you try to get payment through revenge the evil does not disappear. Instead it spreads, and it spreads most tragically of all onto you and your own character" ~Tim Keller

Leviticus 19:18

Luke 10:28, 36 - The Parable of the Good Samaritan

We were once enemies of God, but he loved us, and now calls us to do likewise.

Romans 5:8

2. The Liberty of Love

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Matthew 5:39-42 - four examples of how kingdom citizens will love their enemies.

- i. Turn the other cheek
- ii. Give your second shirt
- iii. Go the extra mile
- iv. Give to those who ask

"[Jesus] said that if a roman soldier commanded them to carry his gear one mile, they should obey the command, and then offer to carry it a second mile. The first mile is slavery. The second mile is freedom. That is the liberating power of enemy love" ~Bruxy Cavey

"Jesus' illustrations and personal example depict not the weakling who offers no resistance...They depict rather the strong man whose control of himself and love for others are so powerful that he rejects absolutely every conceivable form of retaliation." ~John Stott

3. The Legacy of Love

Matthew 5:44-48

"To return evil for evil is devilish; to return good for good is human; to return good for evil is divine" ~Alfred Plummer

"Nowhere is the distinctness of the Christian counter-culture more obvious" ~John Stott

Conclusion:

Ephesians 3:17-19; 2 Corinthians 5:14; 1 John 3:16

Isaiah 50:6

"Love is not a duty...it is our destiny" ~N.T. Wright

Bethel Church Penticton - Sunday February 7, 2016- Pastor Dave Funk

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What is one thing you “hate”? i.e. a type of food, a chore, traffic, small talk, etc. Why do you hate it so much?
2. Why do you think stories of revenge (movies, etc) are so popular? Why do we love revenge? Why is God against it (Lev. 19:18)?

Study & Discussion:

1. What is the “Law of Reciprocity” (see Lev. 24:17-21, Deut. 19:21)? What was it meant to accomplish? Why did Jesus overrule this law?
2. Read Romans 12:17-21. What does this passage add to Jesus’ words in the Sermon on the Mount? How much does living at peace “depend on you”? Why does God maintain the right to avenge? See also 1 Peter 3:9.
3. Read 1 Peter 2:21-24. How did Christ set the example for us to love our enemies? What spiritual resources do we have that enable us to do the same?

Application:

1. How does enemy love bring liberty? Jesus gave us four examples of how enemy love can liberate us (Matthew 5:39-42). Can you brainstorm any other ways to love our enemies? Who are our enemies?
2. What is one thing you can do this week to love someone who is hard to love?

Prayer:

1. Pray for the grace and opportunity to love those who are hard to love.
2. Other requests
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