

DIRECTION-LESS: The Challenge

May 23, 2021 Luke 6:27-28

OPENING QUESTION

Are there people in your life who are difficult for you to love? Why?

LOVE, DO GOOD, BLESS, & PRAY - 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 abuse you.

What is love? Who are your enemies?

WHAT IS LOVE?

- Followers of Jesus cannot be selective in who they love. They must love all people, including enemies.
- This command to love one's enemies is not directed to how we feel, but how we act.
- We all have needs (affection, attention, affirmation) and wounds, and seek ways to satisfy both.
- A wounded person is one who deeply in his or her heart doesn't know they are truly loved.
- God's *original love* (as opposed to our *original sin*) says "I loved you before you could love anyone, and I have accepted you."
- "You are loved no matter what anyone else says or does, and because of My love, you are free to love everyone."
- Love of others begins with our love relationship with God.

Do you tend to gage how you are loved by how well your needs are met by others? Why is this dangerous? What is meant by God's original love and our original sin? How can you choose to love others because God first loved you?

WHO ARE MY ENEMIES?

- The reality is that Jesus has no enemies.
- "Father, forgive them," ; "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."
- An enemy is usually defined as one who is against us.
- We often define ourselves by what we are for and what we are against. Thus, we think we need enemies to help define ourselves.
- Speaking words of forgiveness is where the love of enemies becomes visible.
- Jesus loves all people the same and He alone is the one who defines us.
- Once we experience His original love, we no longer divide people up by those who are deserving and those who are not because NOBODY is excluded from that original love of God!

Do you sometimes define yourself by what you are for and what you are against? Have you seen others do it (check social media)? Do you really *need* enemies to define yourself? What are ways to love your "enemies"?

DIRECTION[†]-LESS?

CLOSING QUESTIONS

Hear

What are some things that stood out to you in this week's sermon and Scriptures?

Obey

Does Jesus have any enemies? Do you? Jesus tells us in Luke 6:27-28 to love our enemies: love, do good, bless, and pray. How can you be intentional about all four commands this week?

Pray

Pray that God will show you how to love your perceived enemies this week, and give you opportunities to do good, bless, and pray for them. Pray for one another in these challenges this week.