

## Reciprocity

**Reciprocity:** literally “back and forth”

- Give back what we received
- Like a ball bouncing off a wall

What is a good way that this works in life?

What is a bad way that this works in life?

What is God’s design for how we are to respond to the negative things that come our way?

1

## Love like God

Luke 6:27-49

[bib.ly/Lk6.NIV](http://bib.ly/Lk6.NIV)  
[tiny.cc/cmchandouts](http://tiny.cc/cmchandouts)



2

*Jesus' message to His disciples in Luke 6:17-26:*

*Things are the opposite of what they seem!*

- **Blessed** are you who are poor, hungry, weeping, and rejected because of Jesus
- **Woe** to you who are rich, full, laughing, and praised by everyone

**The Big Idea:**

**Those in Christ  
who find their blessing in God (rather than earthly riches)  
experience present and future joy  
in His overwhelmingly generous hand**

3

**Luke 6:27-31**

“But to you who are listening I say:

**Love** your enemies,  
**do good** to those who hate you,  
**bless** those who curse you,  
**pray** for those who mistreat you.

4

**Luke 6:27-31**

If someone slaps you on one cheek,  
turn to them the other also.

If someone takes your coat,  
do not withhold your shirt from them.

Give to everyone who asks you,  
and if anyone takes what belongs to you,  
do not demand it back.

**Do to others as you would have them do to you.**

5

**Luke 6:32-34**

“If you love those who love you,  
**what credit is that to you?**

**Even sinners love those who love them.**

And if you do good to those who are good to you,  
**what credit is that to you?**

**Even sinners do that.**

And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment,  
**what credit is that to you?**

**Even sinners lend to sinners,  
expecting to be repaid in full.**

6

**Luke 6:35-36**

But **love** your enemies,  
**do good** to them,  
and **lend** to them without expecting to get anything back.  
Then your reward will be great, and you will be children  
of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and  
wicked.

**Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.**

7

**Luke 6:37-42**

Do not judge,	and you will not be judged.
Do not condemn,	and you will not be condemned.
Forgive,	and you will be forgiven.
Give,	and it will be given to you.

A good measure, pressed down,  
shaken together and running over,  
will be poured into your lap.  
For with the measure you use,  
it will be measured to you.”

8

**Luke 6:37-42**

He also told them this parable:

“Can the blind lead the blind?

Will they not both fall into a pit?

The student is not above the teacher,  
but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

9

**Luke 6:37-42**

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

10

**Luke 6:43-45**

“No good tree bears bad fruit,  
nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

Each tree is recognized by its own fruit.

People do not pick figs from thornbushes,  
or grapes from briers.

A good man brings good things  
out of the good stored up in his heart,  
and an evil man brings evil things  
out of the evil stored up in his heart.

**For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.**

**briers = thornbushes**

11

**Luke 6:46-49**

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

**torrent = a strong, fast-moving flood of water**

12

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**Do to others as you would have them do to you.**

14

*Luke 6:27-49*

**27-31:** Treat your enemies the way you treat those you love

- Far beyond “nonretaliation”!
- Love is action more than emotion → illustrations
  - Do good
  - Bless
  - Pray for
- Accept dishonor
- Let them take / Give

32-34:

35-36:

37-42:

43-45:

46-49:

15

*Luke 6:27-49*

**27-31:** Treat your enemies the way you treat those you love

- “Love is hopeful that enemies will change, and not resentful if they do not”
- Wisely...
  - Paul used Roman law to avoid flogging and death
- And radically...
  - Coat and shirt may be all the clothing the poor had
  - So certainly we can love in far less dire circumstances!
- The Golden Rule
  - Treat your enemy the way your close friend treats you

32-34:

35-36:

37-42:

43-45:

46-49:

16



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**Luke 6:27-49**

27-31: Treat your enemies the way you treat those you love

**32-34: No praise for merely loving those who love you**

- Normal pattern for relationships: reciprocity
  - Justice: treat people according to their behavior
    - Love those who love you
  - Even the most evil people do this
  - This is not worthy of praise!

35-36: • God’s command is worthy of praise

37-42: • To those who deserve retaliation...  
show sacrificial kindness

43-45:

46-49:

**reciprocity = treat as you have been treated**  
**retaliation = revenge, harm to the one who has harmed**

18

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 of the Most High, because

**he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.**

**Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.**

19

**Luke 6:27-49**

27-31: Treat your enemies the way you treat those you love

32-34: No praise for merely loving those who love you

35-36: **Be like God: kind to the ungrateful and wicked**

- Commands restated:  
love, do good, lend without expecting return
- An astounding surprise!
  - **God is kind to the ungrateful and wicked**
  - God's mercy is for everyone,  
including the "undeserving" (which means us)

37-42: • This is amazing and beautiful and glorious!

43-45: • Children of God are to live like God: be merciful!

46-49: • This is praiseworthy, and distinctively Christian

20

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35-36: Be like God: kind to the ungrateful and wicked

**37-42: Our task: forgive, and work on my faults**

- Reciprocity only works for people who are truly good
  - “An eye for an eye” leads broken people to blindness
  - Forgiveness is the right action by the forgiven
- When we judge we lead others to be judgmental too
- So we need mercy

43-45: • God is abundantly merciful to the merciful

46-49: • To help us remove the plank from our eye...

- We, as forgiven people, keep judging others!

24

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43-45: **We need a change of heart for changed actions**

- Our attitudes & actions reveal what is inside us
  - When others are ungrateful and wicked,  
it squeezes us, and what is inside comes out
- Our problem is what is inside us
  - It eventually works its way out

46-49:

26

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43-45: This requires a change of heart for changed actions

46-49: This requires a change of **action**

- Jesus presents the path of blessing: taking action!
- Benefits show up in storms that will eventually come
  - Especially persecution
  - Everyday life is a time for good actions
  - Everyday life is preparation for harder days

28

*Luke 6:27-49*

- 27-31: Treat everyone like those you love  
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 37-42: Our task: forgive, and work on my faults  
 43-45: This requires a change of **heart** for changed actions  
 46-49: This requires a change of **action**

29

*The Big Idea*

**God's will is  
 to love the ungrateful and the wicked  
 through us  
 bringing the blessings of Christ to us as well  
 as we are transformed by Him**

30

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart.

For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

*Luke 6:45*



31

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32



While Jesus was being crucified, Jesus said,  
 “Father, forgive them, for they do not know  
 what they are doing.”

And they divided up his clothes  
 by casting lots.

*Luke 23:34*



33

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed,  
 “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then  
 he fell on his knees and cried out,  
 “Lord, do not hold this sin  
 against them.”

When he had said this,  
 he fell asleep.

*Acts 7:59–60*



34

*Joseph's brothers had sold him into slavery and they feared Joseph's retaliation when he was in power. But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. Genesis 50:19-21*



35

*Paul's description of his life as an apostle: To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly. 1 Corinthians 4:11-13*



36

**Do not repay anyone evil for evil.... Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. ...." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

*Romans 12:17-21*



37

### Patterns for how we treat others...

- **Pessimistic**
  - Do to others before they do it to us, assuming the worst
- **Cautious**
  - Don't risk kindness until we know if they'll be kind
- **Cautiously generous**
  - Do to others what we hope they'll do to us
  - Until they aren't kind, then do as they do
- **Truly generous** **The Golden Rule**
  - Do to others as we would have them do to us,  
**no matter what they do**

38

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**God's will is  
to love the ungrateful and the wicked  
through us  
bringing the blessings of Christ to us as well  
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39

**Who is my enemy?**

- People who...
  - Hate or harm me or people I love
  - Curse me or people I love
  - Mistreat me or people I love
  - Steal from me or people I love
  - Dishonor me or people I love
  - Are ungrateful for things done for them by me or people I love

40

## Who is my enemy?

- People who don't love me
- People I...
  - I am pleased when I hear negative reports about them
  - I find satisfaction when they do more bad things
  - I hope they will encounter trouble in life
  - I become unhappy about when they meet good things
  - I become happy about when they meet difficulties in life
  - I hope they do not try to become my friend
  - I don't want to forgive them
  - I don't want to sympathize with them
  - Whose offenses I don't want to forget

41

## Who is my enemy?

- People who don't love me
- People I don't love
- Whether...
  - A family member or someone I have never met
  - Someone in our church, or someone in a previous church
  - Someone much more powerful than I... or much lower
  - I think I can hide my hate and judgment, or not
- Including...
  - Politicians and political parties
  - Categories of people
- Whether a lot or a little...

**Jesus said: love them from your heart, and with your actions**

42

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43

*Application*

- **Love your enemies**
  - Do good to them
  - Bless
  - Pray
  - If they take, give more
  - Lend without expecting return
  - Don't judge
  - Don't condemn
  - Forgive
  - Give generously
  - Deal with (admit and fix) my own faults before addressing theirs
  - Be like God

44

### *Application*

- Love your enemies
- **As Christ has done for us**
  - “God is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.”
  - This is what Jesus **did** for you and for me
  - This is what Jesus **does** for you and for me
  - How much do you and I need this forgiveness?

45

### ***Jesus taught:***

“Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”...

Jesus replied, “Whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

*Luke 7:41-47*

**How much have you and I been forgiven by Jesus?**

denarii = pay for one day of work

46

## Does this mean we don't pursue correction of systemic and personal injustice and sins?

- Sometimes it is right to **overlook** the wrong
  - “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” *1 Peter 4:8*
- Sometimes it is right to **confront** the wrong
  - Always in **love**, with **joy** and **peace**, showing **patience** and **kindness**, doing **goodness**, with **faithfulness**, **gentleness**, and **self-control**
  - Never with an attitude of judgment, but in humility
  - Never delighting in evil or their loss, but in compassion

47

“With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father,  
and with it we curse human beings,  
who have been made in God's likeness.  
Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing.  
My brothers and sisters, this should not be.”

*James 3:9-10*

48



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to love the ungrateful and the wicked  
through us  
bringing the blessings of Christ to us as well  
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**"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"**

**Pray for your enemies → each day this week**

**Do good to your enemies → one action this week**