

Enemies Of Christ

12-9-18

Luke 6:27–28 (ESV)

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**.

This is a section of Scripture that seems impractical and impossible to apply. Therefore, it is very important to understand the context and the culture in which it was taught. This section of Scripture is dealing with the Enemies of Christ! Look at how the section begins:

Luke 6:22–23 (ESV)

²² Blessed are you **when people hate you** and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, **on account of the Son of Man!** ²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, **your reward is great in heaven**; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

Look at how the section ends:

Luke 6:35 (ESV)

But **love your enemies**, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and **you will be sons of the Most High**, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

Seeing this section in context with those who are the Enemies of Christ, people who want to harm you, we are better able to grasp the intended meaning of these very difficult verses.

First we should take note that Scripture teaches that Enemies of Christ **are different** from fools, criminals, or other hurtful unbelievers. The Bible specifically teaches that we are to exercise “Love and Wisdom” **to appropriately address bad behavior.**

1. Love does not **participate** in bad behavior.
2. Love does not **enable** bad behavior.
3. Love does not **withhold** truth concerning bad behavior.

This important to understand or Christians develop the erroneous attitude that they shouldn't confront evil or people with bad or foolish intentions.

However, Enemies of Christ require a different approach! “Enemies of Christ” who hate you and desire to do you harm only because you are a Christian **can only be confronted through civil or other governmental protections.**

Romans 13:1 (ESV)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

If these protections are not available or if the Enemies of Christ are actually the Governmental, social, civil authorities themselves, they must not be resisted. We must not return violence with violence.

**Therefore, Jesus gives us specific direction concerning oppressive authorities:
CONTEXT IS KEY in understanding Jesus' intent!**

Luke 6:29 (ESV)

To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either.

It is true that the declaration to love your enemies is universal for all Christians. However, to have a clear understanding of these specific teachings, we should understand them in context of being under the oppression of the **“Enemies of Christ” when we do not have any legal recourse.** **Jesus is speaking against violent action against oppressive authorities.** The **Jews had a full understanding of this** being under the oppression of the mighty Roman Empire.

These oppressive situations may seem hopeless from our human point of view. However, Jesus also states that **by not resisting** these oppressive authorities, **we are engaging and releasing the power of God.**

Luke 6:32 (ESV)

If you love those who love you, what **benefit (literal: grace/power)** is that to you?

The following verse, are universal for all Christians in all situations, but they are specifically applicable for “Enemies of Christ”! Most translations use the English word **benefit** or **credit** in this section.

However, the literal translation of the word is Grace meaning power and favor. Therefore although we are not resisting oppressive authorities, we are engaging God’s Grace.

Luke 6:32–34 (ESV)

³² “If you love those who love you, what **grace/power** is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what **grace/power** is that to you? For even sinners do the

same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what **grace/power** is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.

Scripture is supernaturally practical and powerful! Believers carry out godly teaching and disciplines of Christ. But when dealing with Enemies of Christ who are oppressive authorities of this evil world, we do not resist them. We understand that only the move of God can protect us. Therefore, we have power in our humble and helpless situation depending totally on the mercy of God.

Our power is not violence, but our power is the Grace of God and the power of the gospel.

Romans 1:16 (ESV)

The gospel is the power of God:

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have
eternal life.

Prophetic Team

***Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current
situation or impact the future.***