

March 13, 2022
God Loves You – Go Love the World

Sermon Central Video – Love No Exceptions

John 13:34... *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*

I John 4:18,19...¹⁸ *There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. The one who fears has not been perfected in love.* ¹⁹ *We love because He first loved us.*

Sections from Chapter 10 God Loves You by David Jeremiah used

BECAUSE GOD LOVES US....

(1) We Can Love Him

I John 4:10,19... ¹⁰ *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ...* ¹⁹ *We love because he first loved us.*

(2) We Can Love Ourselves

Matthew 19:19... *'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* "

(3) We Can Love One Another (Words & Deeds)

John 13:34... *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*

1 John 3:18... *let us not love in word or speech only, but also in deed and in truth.*

.....**Through Words of Encouragement...**

I Thessalonians 5:11... *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.*

Ephesians 4:29... *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

.....**Through Words of Insight and Guidance...**

Colossians 1:9-10... *For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

.....[Through Deeds of Kindness](#) ...

I Peter 4:9...*Be hospitable to one another without complaining.*

Ephesians 4:32... *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

(Remember that kindness is taking other people's needs into consideration and acting upon that)

.....[Through Deeds of Service](#)...

1 John 3:17-18... *But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech only, but also in deed and in truth.*

Hebrews 10:24...*Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,*

4) We Can Love Our Enemies

Matthew 5:43-44... ⁴³ *"You have heard that it was said, **Love your neighbor** and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I tell you, **love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you,*

I think the **first reason** that we should love our enemies, and I think this was at the very center of Jesus' thinking, is this: that hate for hate only intensifies the existence of hate and evil in the

universe. If I hit you and you hit me and I hit you back and you hit me back and go on, you see, that goes on ad infinitum. It just never ends. Somewhere somebody must have a little sense, and that's the strong person. The strong person is the person who can cut off the chain of hate, the chain of evil. And that is the tragedy of hate, that it doesn't cut it off. It only intensifies the existence of hate and evil in the universe. Somebody must have religion enough and morality enough to cut it off and inject within the very structure of the universe that strong and powerful element of love. (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in one of his sermons stated "my brother and I were driving one evening to Chattanooga, Tennessee, from Atlanta. He was driving the car. And for some reason the drivers were very discourteous that night. They didn't dim their lights; hardly any driver that passed by dimmed his lights. And I remember very vividly, my brother A. D. looked over and in a tone of anger said: "I know what I'm going to do. The next car that comes along here and refuses to dim the lights, I'm going to fail to dim mine and pour them on in all of their power." And I looked at him right quick and said: "Oh no, don't do that. There'd be too much light on this highway, and it will end up in mutual destruction for all. Somebody got to have some sense on this highway."

There's **another reason** why you should love your enemies, and that is because hate distorts the

personality of the hater. We usually think of what hate does for the individual hated or the individuals hated or the groups hated. But it is even more tragic, it is even more ruinous and injurious to the individual who hates. You just begin hating somebody, and you will begin to do irrational things. You can't see straight when you hate. You can't walk straight when you hate.

Now there is a final reason I think that Jesus says, "Love your enemies." It is this: that love has within it a redemptive power. And there is a power there that eventually transforms individuals. That's why Jesus says, "Love your enemies." Because if you hate your enemies, you have no way to redeem and to transform your enemies. But if you love your enemies, you will discover that at the very root of love is the power of redemption. You just keep loving people and keep loving them, even though they're mistreating you. Here's the person who is a neighbor, and this person is doing something wrong to you and all of that. Just keep being friendly to that person. Keep loving them. Don't do anything to embarrass them. Just keep loving them, and they can't stand it too long. Oh, they react in many ways in the beginning. They react with bitterness because they're mad because you love them like that. They react with guilt feelings, and sometimes they'll hate you a little more at that transition period, but just keep loving them. And by the power of your love they will

break down under the load. That's love, you see. It is redemptive, and this is why Jesus says love. There's something about love that builds up and is creative. There is something about hate that tears down and is destructive. So love your enemies.

I think of one of the best examples of this. We all remember the great president of this United States, Abraham Lincoln—these United States rather. You remember when Abraham Lincoln was running for president of the United States, there was a man who ran all around the country talking about Lincoln. He said a lot of bad things about Lincoln, a lot of unkind things. And sometimes he would get to the point that he would even talk about his looks, saying, "You don't want a tall, lanky, ignorant man like this as the president of the United States." He went on and on and on and went around with that type of attitude and wrote about it. Finally, one day Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States. And if you read the great biography of Lincoln, if you read the great works about him, you will discover that as every president comes to the point, he came to the point of having to choose a Cabinet. And then came the time for him to choose a Secretary of War. He looked across the nation, and decided to choose a man by the name of Mr. Stanton. And when Abraham Lincoln stood around his advisors and mentioned this fact, they said to him: "Mr. Lincoln, are you a fool? Do you know what Mr. Stanton has been saying about

you? Do you know what he has done, tried to do to you? Do you know that he has tried to defeat you on every hand? Do you know that, Mr. Lincoln? Did you read all of those derogatory statements that he made about you?" Abraham Lincoln stood before the advisors around him and said: "Oh yes, I know about it; I read about it; I've heard him myself. But after looking over the country, I find that he is the best man for the job."

Mr. Stanton did become Secretary of War, and a few months later, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. And if you go to Washington, you will discover that one of the greatest words or statements ever made by, about Abraham Lincoln was made about this man Stanton. And as Abraham Lincoln came to the end of his life, Stanton stood up and said: "Now he belongs to the ages." And he made a beautiful statement concerning the character and the stature of this man. If Abraham Lincoln had hated Stanton, if Abraham Lincoln had answered everything Stanton said, Abraham Lincoln would have not transformed and redeemed Stanton. Stanton would have gone to his grave hating Lincoln, and Lincoln would have gone to his grave hating Stanton. But through the power of love Abraham Lincoln was able to redeem Stanton.

Abraham Lincoln, stated earlier in his life. Do I not destroy my enemy when I make them a friend?

That's it. There is a power in love that our world has not discovered yet. Jesus discovered it centuries ago.

(1) You need to acknowledge that you are a sinner

(2) You must accept God's gift of love

(3) Ask God to forgive your sin, and invite Christ into your hearts.