

- Luke 6:27** “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
- Luke 6:28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.
- Luke 6:29** 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.
- Luke 6:30** Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back.
- Luke 6:31** And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.
- Luke 6:32** “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.
- Luke 6:33** And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.
- Luke 6:34** And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.
- Luke 6:35** 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.
- Luke 6:36** Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

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This is the highest standard of the divine life. Who can live according to this standard? Only God. This shows the nature of God, who He is. God would never demand such a living from us if He Himself did not meet such a standard.

We are the enemies of God, in our living, in our decisions, in our choices. But God still loves us, still prays for us, still intercedes for us before the Father. He loves us even when we do not love Him.

Rather than try to keep each of these commandments, do I come to the Lord to repent for not loving the brother who offends me, for not being merciful to a brother who has shown me mercy before?

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The teachings in Luke 6:27,28,29 and 35 are not easy at all for any Christian to live out. However, in the Lord, we may be able to exercise to practice them once in a while. The secret for me to practice such a teaching is to consider that no one is my enemy in my life so that I will enjoy peace and grace in my dealings with the people around us. Certainly, when someone concerning whom I do not normally have a good feeling comes into my mind, I will try to pray for him immediately.

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I may lend to a brother or a sister and think that I have done a righteous deed. God, however, does not look at the outward action but rather at the motive, at the heart. Why did I lend? Am I expecting something in return?

Even our best acts of kindness or generosity are tainted with ulterior motives and self-gain. For example, if I help a saint move, do I expect him to help me move when the time arises? If I participate in the financial grace offering, do I expect to have the right to voice an opinion concerning church operation, based on my financial offering?

All my “good deeds” or shepherding of saints, or services, need to be exposed in the light of the Lord, to lead me to repent and confess to the Lord.

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Matt . 18:23-27 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of compassion for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

Matt . 18:28-33 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe’. So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’

Because of the contrast between the love of our Lord expressed in Matt. 18:23-27 and our narrowness, selfishness and no-mercy attitude described in Matt. 18:28-33, I have practiced many years in the church life just to give money and not to lend money to anyone who has a need.

Luke 6:31 And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

Luke 6:32 “If you love those who love you, what benefit (**G5485 graciousness**) is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

Luke 6:33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit (**G5485 graciousness**) is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

What we, in the church life, are living to gain is the reward (**G3408**) (Christ in fact) and not much benefit (**G5485**) in the current age. These verses also encourage us to preach the gospel to strangers.

1st Cor.3:8,14 But the planter and the waterer are one; but each shall receive **his own reward** (**G3408**) according to his own labour. If the work of any one which he has built upon the foundation shall abide, he shall receive **a reward** (**G3408**).

Matt. 25:23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

Luke 6:36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

I will try to be very intimately related with our Lord and the saints. Then, such a virtue of being merciful will grow in me and be expressed in my living.

Luke 6:36 “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

- The main point: love your enemies. It’s really hard as a man to do so. But love comes from God. We honor our source, which is our Father in heaven.
- We prepare ourselves to be merciful in our life. We can’t be merciful as a man, but when we come to the Lord, we may be merciful sometimes. In other words, the only way we can be merciful is that we come to the Lord. Even when we are “offended” by the saints, can we be merciful? I need to practice to abide in Christ.
- We can learn to be merciful, but even so, we don’t just please man but God. We don’t try just to be a good person to please man. By doing so, we may harm them and cause them not to gain Christ. Not only the saints but I also can learn from any disagreement, even conflicts, and the focus is not only on being merciful, but on helping me and the saints to gain Christ.



Lydia Chen

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This love to love your enemies is different from the worldly love. One needs to love his enemies, and gives goods to the person who takes away his goods.

I cannot do it by myself. I can only rely on the Lord to gain faith and ability from His love to love people who does not like me. Luke 6:35 reveals that if one does like this, his reward will be great in the heaven.