

# 4Ws TRUE LOVE WINS

## LOVE THE UNLOVABLE

FEBRUARY 20, 2022

### WORSHIP

Today, O Lord, My Rock  
and My Redeemer, How  
Great Is Your Love

### WELCOME

Share to the group what  
your top three pet peeves  
are.

### WORD

(READ LUKE 6:27-36 AHEAD OF  
TIME)

#### LUKE 6:27-31

<sup>27</sup> “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who are abusive to you. <sup>29</sup> Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic from him either. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup> Treat people the same way you want them to treat you.”

The world teaches us that if people hurt you, you are to hurt them back, detach yourself, or worse, “cancel” them. The world teaches us that unlovable people should be ill-treated because they deserve it. Yet the Bible teaches us differently, Jesus teaches us to love our enemies and to love the unlovable (**Luke 6:27-28**). But how can we love the unlovable?

#### 1. RESPOND IN LOVE

Conflict and disagreement are inevitable, and there are three common responses in conflict. First is to be passive where we just leave and ignore the conflict, in hopes that it will fix itself. The second response is vindictive, in hopes to get even with the other party. The third response is one that Jesus teaches. He teaches us to respond in love.

In **Luke 6:27, 31** and **35**, Jesus addressed his followers. He commands them to love their enemies and the word used for “love” in this verse is “agapao” that translates as “unconditional love”. This is not a suggestion, but a command. This means that if we don’t love our enemies, we are disobeying Jesus!

Our personal enemies are those who hate or dislike us, who seek to contradict us, fight us, or harm us. Jesus called us to make loving such people a lifestyle because the reality is that we ourselves can become unlovable, and there are moments when we too act like an enemy to those who are closest to us.

Jesus was refuting the religious leaders who misquoted the law in **Exodus 21:23-24** and taught about getting even (**Matthew 5:38; 43**). The law was a guide to the Israelites then in exacting retribution because otherwise, they gave punishments that exceeded the crime. This made sure that the punishment would fit the crime. The religious leaders taught hating those who hate you but conveniently left out the command not just to love your enemies, but also those whom you may not agree with, or part of another people group (**Leviticus 19:17-18; Leviticus 19:33-34**).

In the Bible, Stephen is an example of those who loved his enemies. Though falsely accused and sentenced to be stoned to death, Stephen responded in love and prayed for his enemies (**Acts 7:60**). Present in that trial was Saul of Tarsus who agreed to the stoning of Stephen. Later, as Saul was on his way to persecute more Christians, he encountered Jesus, who responded to Saul by showing him mercy (**Acts 9:3-6**). That began Saul’s transformation into the apostle Paul!

What do you think would win over your enemy today?

#### 2. REACH OUT INTENTIONALLY

**Luke 6:27-30** shows us how love can be demonstrated by actions. In the passage, Jesus teaches us to do good, to bless, and even pray for our enemies! Jesus is simply teaching us that when the time comes that our enemies come to us, we



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are to do whatever it takes to win them over in love. While the world teaches us retaliation, Jesus teaches us reconciliation. This verse, however, is not to be misused so that people can abuse us. If we are wronged and abused, we are still to seek justice according to the law of the land; this verse applies to our personal conflicts. Our part is to reach out and love as best we can, and we are to leave room for God to avenge us because only God can grant perfect justice (**Romans 12:19-21, Proverbs 16:7**).

Jesus pursued Paul this way, He used Ananias to be an instrument of love to an enemy such as Saul (**Acts 9:11-15**). Ananias obeyed God in faith and reached out to Saul (**Acts 9:13-19**) and through this event Saul proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah. Paul's own encounter with Jesus caused him to admonish love for one another, even loving the unlovable (**Romans 12:14;17**).

Are there people you would rather just judge or have nothing to do with? God is calling you today to love the difficult people in your life. **Luke 6:32-34** reminds us to be different because our love sets us apart and is the distinguishing attitude of Christians.

Who do I need to reach out to and reconcile with?

### 3. REPRESENT CHRIST

Why do we need to represent Christ? The reality is, if we don't represent Christ, we will develop hatred for our enemies. We will start to be more critical, be more judgmental, build unforgiveness, and bitterness, and soon enough we will have foothold and bondage because of the refusal to release these people in forgiveness. When we represent Christ, there is a reward. We are most like Christ when we allow God to love others through us (**Luke 6:35-36**). When we love our enemies, we are not like doormats, but doors so that our enemies can also know God. You represent Christ by the way you love your enemy (**Matthew 5:45,48**). We love our enemies not because we want to be children of God, but because we are already children of God. To love the unlovable is rooted in the heart of God. Paul having received mercy and love from the church testifies of God's radical love. He was saved by the grace of God, and experienced love from those who represented Christ to him (**1 Timothy 1:12-15**).

What are the practical ways I can represent Christ's love to the unlovable this week? We are all unlovable, and yet we are so loved by God. What is hindering us from loving another person the way Christ loves?

Jesus was also surrounded with unlovable people, He was betrayed by His friends, He was beaten and mocked by soldiers, and was crucified by His own people, yet on the cross He still loved and prayed for His enemies (**Luke 23:34**). We were once enemies of God, but Jesus sacrificed Himself on the cross to reconcile us to the Father (**Romans 5:10**). Because of Jesus' love for us, we too can love the unlovable.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

#### 1. Self-Check.

How do I respond towards difficult people?

#### 2. Setting It Right.

Who do I need to reach out to and reconcile with?

#### 3. Living It Out.

What are practical ways I can represent Christ's love to the unlovable this week?

### WORKS

#### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people who may be difficult to love so that you will be able to see them through God's eyes and extend grace to them. Find opportunities to reach out to an "enemy" and be a blessing to them this week. Invite them to church service next Sunday, or to join you in your Dgroup meetings! Share the gospel to them that they may find unconditional love, forgiveness and transformation in and through Christ.

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants  
A God-centered Philippines  
Repentance and Salvation

#### III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples  
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families  
Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center  
Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God  
Righteous living  
Salvation of family and friends

### MEMORY VERSE

#### LUKE 6:27-28

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