



“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 HIMSELF IS KIND TO UNGRATEFUL AND EVIL MEN**” (Luke 6:35).

The process of loving your enemies involves ACTION, KNOWLEDGE and a HUMBLE HEART OF FLESH.

1. **BE DOERS of the will of God.**

God considers the righteous to be the doers, those who actively live God’s way. “For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is **those who obey the law who will be declared righteous**” (Romans 2:13).

DOERS are wise. “Therefore. everyone who hears these words of Mine and **acts on them is like a wise man** who built his house on the rock” (Matthew 7:24).

DOERS avoid deceiving themselves. “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says**” (James 1:22).

DOERS avoid sin. “Therefore, to him that knows to do good, and **doeth it not, to him it is sin**” (James 4:17).

DOERS are part of God’s family. “For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother” (Matthew 5:20).

2. **DO NOT HATE your brothers and sisters of the faith.**

To hate while professing to follow Christ, is being a liar. “**Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar.** For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen” (I John 4:20).

"If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, **we lie and do not live out the truth**" (1 John 1:6).

People who hate, drain themselves of God's Holy Spirit. "Everyone **hating his brother or sister is a murderer**; and you know that **any murderer does not have eternal life [God's Holy Spirit] abiding in him**" (1 John 3:15).

People who hate live in darkness. "If anyone **claims to be in the light but hates his brother or sister**, he is **still in the darkness**" (1 John 2:9).

People who participate in the character assassination of anyone, Believers or non-Believers are not doing God's way. The Merriam-Webster states, "**Slander** is the utterance of false charges or misrepresentations which defame and damage another's reputation." <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/slander>

"Brothers, **do not slander one another**. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the Law and judges it. And if you judge the Law, you are not a practitioner of the Law, but a judge of it" (James 4:11).

Reach the higher standard of God and love your enemies. Author of Gotquestions.org provides insight into the understanding of loving your enemies. "A Pharisee once asked Jesus, 'Who is my neighbor?' (Luke 10:29). Jesus then told the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Here Jesus taught that His followers must demonstrate love to all kinds of people—no matter what faith, nationality, or personality—enemies included. If you love your enemies and 'pray for those who persecute you,' you then truly reveal that Jesus is Lord of your life." <https://www.gotquestions.org/love-enemies.html>

"But to those of you who will listen, I say: **Love your enemies**, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" (Luke 6:27-28).

"**Do not rejoice when your enemy falls**, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; or the LORD will see it and be displeased, and turn His anger away from him. **Do not fret because of evildoers or be envious of the wicked**" (Proverbs 24:17-20).

"You have heard that it was said, 'you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, **love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you**, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for **He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous**" (Matthew 5:43-48).

"If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying helpless under its load, you shall refrain from leaving it to him, you shall surely release it with him" (Exodus 23:5).

The author of Gotquestions.org adds, “By using an illustration of the sun rising and the rain falling on both the good and the evil, Jesus shows God’s indiscriminating love to all people. **His disciples then must reflect His character and exhibit this same indiscriminating love for both friends and enemies.** Jesus is teaching us that we must live by a higher standard than what the world expects—a standard that is impossible for us to attain by our own efforts. It’s only through the power of God’s Spirit that His people can truly love and pray for those who intend to do them harm (Romans 12:14-21).”

“Finally, after giving us the admonition to love our enemies, Jesus then gives us this command: “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). As sons of our Father (Matthew 5:45), we are to be perfect, even as He is perfect. This is utterly impossible for sinful man to achieve. This unattainable standard is exactly what the Law itself demanded (James 2:10). So how can Jesus demand the impossible? He later tells us, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). That which God demands, only He can accomplish, including the demand to love our enemies. What is impossible for man becomes possible for those who give their lives to Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts.”

<https://www.gotquestions.org/love-enemies.html>

The Messiah died for everyone. His sacrifice paid the price for our sins. All of mankind is now a “virgin” in God’s eyes, an undefiled body of people. Many have not been called into God’s knowledge and they sin in ignorance. God holds these people to a different standard. Until the gospel goes out to all the whole world, people will sin—in ignorance. To those who hear God’s word and listen, Jesus urges **them to DO, to ACT, to OVERCOME, to CONQUER sin by LIVING the ways of God.**

Remember patience and understand there is a time of ignorance. “The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).

There remains today many in unbelief. “Though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But **I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief.** And the grace of our Lord overflowed to me, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus” (I Timothy 1:13-14).

To those already called and listening to the word of God, He urges them to grow daily in His ways. “As obedient children, **do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance**” (I Peter 1:14).

Overcoming the ways of the carnal mind and standing strong to execute the ways of God can be tricky when Wickedness suddenly appears and our emotions are triggered to react. Wickedness uses the same play book. Lying, twisting of the truth, labeling and name calling, and finally character assassination are the common tactics used frequently. “So that we would **not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs**” (II Corinthians 2:11).

Unfortunately, a stubborn heart will always seek its own way of handling situations. A stubborn heart believes it is right and capable of knowing the difference between right and wrong. Until it is disciplined, it will constantly rear its ugly head. “For, **being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own righteousness**, they did not submit to God's righteousness” (Romans 10:3).

3. BLESS THOSE WHO CURSE YOU.

“Bless those who persecute you. **Bless and do not curse**” (Romans 12:14).

Barnes’ notes on this scripture states, “To curse denotes properly to devote to destruction. Where there is power to do it, it implies the destruction of the object. Thus, the fig-tree that was cursed by the Saviour soon withered away: Mark 11:21. Thus, those whom God curses will be certainly destroyed; Matthew 25:41.” <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/romans/12-14.htm>

If cursing denotes destruction, then blessing denotes the preserving of life. Blessing an enemy would then mean to advocate for their life, physically and spiritually. God wishes that no one choose to remain in sin and death, so all Christians should advocate for the repentance of all of mankind and their receiving of eternal life. Jesus commands the saints and the group of people who comprise of the Philadelphia church to endure patiently during times of persecution and great distress. They will remain in jeopardy and some of them will lose their lives while waiting for Christ’s return, but they willingly suffer so that time can be extended to their brothers and sisters to come into repentance and be saved.

The Institute of Basic Life Principles provides a succinct response to understanding God’s command to bless and not to curse. “One of the Biblical terms for someone who speaks abusive words is *reviler*. **Reviling comes from a heart of scorn and contempt** and is a means of verbally attacking a person as an expression of anger and hatred. A reviler intends to vilify, to defame, to bring shame, to discredit, or to attribute evil motives to another.”

“Ridicule is one aspect of reviling. To ridicule is to hold up a person or his ideas to laughter—to sneer, scoff, and belittle a person. Giving someone an insulting or demeaning label is a common method of ridicule. Reviling is a form of railing upon a person.”

“**God’s Word condemns reviling.** The Apostle Paul instructed the Corinthian believers not to keep company with a believer who was a reviler (see I Corinthians 5:11), and he also said that revilers are among those who will not inherit the kingdom of God (see I Corinthians 6:9-10).”

“Jesus set the example that we are to follow, returning blessing for cursing and committing Himself into His heavenly Father’s care. (See I Peter 2:21.) **“When he [Jesus] was reviled, [he] reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him**

that judges righteously: who his own self bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness . . .” (1 Peter 2:23).”

“If we bless those who hurt us, **God will take full responsibility for whatever punishment should be administered to offenders.** It is our responsibility to overcome evil with good, and speaking words of blessing is one way to do that.”

“Freedom from an emotional, often vengeful, reaction and genuine love for an offender are the immediate rewards of blessing a reviler. When a person is reviled, the resulting anguish can easily develop into emotional grief and bitterness. However, if by faith that person chooses to bless his offender, rather than curse him, evil will effectively be overcome with good.” <https://iblp.org/questions/why-should-i-bless-those-who-curse-me>

4. PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MISTREAT YOU.

Going to God and asking Him to forgive the hurtful actions of people, is the prayer both Stephen and Jesus provided as an example of loving your enemies. “Then he [Stephen] fell on his knees and cried out, “**Lord, do not hold this sin against them.**” When he had said this, he fell asleep” (Acts 7:60).

“Then Jesus said, ‘**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**’ And they divided up His garments by casting lots” (Luke 23:34).

“But I tell you, love your enemies and **pray for those who persecute you** that you may be sons of your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:44).

Expect and don’t be surprised when wayward people participate in Satan’s attacks. God’s people will be lied about, falsely accused and their name will be rubbished. Jesus said, “Blessed are you, **when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and CAST OUT YOUR NAME AS EVIL,** for the Son of man's sake” (Luke 6:22).

Participate in God’s plan to bring as many people as possible into repentance by not responding in their same manner. Pray to God for their forgiveness and rejoice with God when they repent and join God’s family.

5. LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

“A new commandment I give you: Love one another. **As I have loved you, so also you must love one another**” (John 13:34).

Loving one another provides an opportunity to teach those who hate you by continuing to do good. “Make sure that no one repays evil for evil. Always pursue what is good for one another and for all people” (1 Thessalonians 5:15).

“For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to **silence the ignorance of foolish people**” (I Peter 2:15).

Loving one another will stir you to settle grievances quickly and timely in love. “You must not harbor hatred against your brother or sister in your heart. Directly rebuke your neighbor, so that you will **not incur guilt on account of him**” (Leviticus 19:17).

The Apostle John recorded that **no greater love is there, than a brother or sister lay down his or her life for the preservation of life for another brother or sister** (John 15:13). This type of love is the greatest of all; the love to see everyone in God’s kingdom and the willing desire to suffer and even die for them.

Life on earth is often reduced to a small scene of the great story. People live in small boxes with low ceilings believing that is life. Yet, the great story goes beyond physical life on earth. It is a story that becomes visible when people acknowledge the extended hand of their Creator and lock onto Him to see into the wonders of His world and foresee the extensive opportunities, prestigious positions of leadership, and the glory and honor our Father in heaven has prepared for them.

Seeing the big picture stirs up the desire to master the qualities of God. Virtue is having the discipline to do the right thing. “A man's insight gives him patience, and **his virtue is to overlook an offense**” (Proverbs 19:11).

Seeing the big picture drives Christians to search themselves, to self-reflect, to cleanse themselves of every action that is not of God. “Let love BE WITHOUT HYPOCRISY abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord” (Romans 12:9-11).

Seeing the big picture humbles Christians to follow the pure Word of God, His Son—the expert in God’s ways, the perfect, unique Son of God. “These are the ones who have not been defiled with women [false religion], for they are virgins [people walking in God’s way]. **They follow the Lamb wherever He goes.** They have been redeemed from among men as first-fruits to God and to the Lamb. And **no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless**” (Revelation 14:4-5).

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; and **what does the LORD require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?**” (Micah 6:8)

“**Let all that you do be done in love**” (I Corinthians 16:14).

Those who are disciplined students following Jesus, love one another. "Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come. A new commandment I give to you, that you love

one another, even **as I have loved you**, that you also love one another. **By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another"** (John 13:33-35).

6. WITHOUT LOVE, YOU HAVE NOTHING.

Jesus said that many will glory in their own work thinking they are doing God's work, though it may be a good work, it is empty if that person participates in the spreading of hatred, opposition, intolerance and character assassination through their own biases and undisciplined human nature. "If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have absolute faith so as to move mountains, but **have not love, I am nothing"** (I Corinthians 13:2).

All of the glorious gifts God gives will be worth nothing, if people do not love their brothers and sisters of the faith and all of mankind outside of the faith. God's plan is to call all people, but not all at the same time. The phases within God's grand plan bring everyone ever born on earth into His knowledge at the time deemed by Him. Those who are now aware, are urged to become righteous by doing, maturing, overcoming and conquering the wrong ways through God's Holy Spirit, not just being good listeners and teachers.

A warning to those who only listen and pride themselves of being enlightened teachers, God will treat those hard-hearted people with the same lack of compassion they treat others. "That is how My Heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother and sister from your heart" (Matthew 18:35).

7. THE UNREPENTANT WILL BE JUDGED AND MEASURED ACCORDING TO THEIR WICKEDNESS.

"On the contrary, 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. For in so doing, **you will heap burning coals on his head.**' Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good"** (Romans 12:20-21).

Jesus urged the seven churches of Revelation to overcome. This overcoming is the act of putting God's way into practice. When attacked by Wickedness, the overcomer conquers through doing and reacting to the attack using God's techniques and strategies that lead to peace and love.

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).

"Hatred stirs up strife: but **love covers all sins"** (Proverbs 10:12).

"An arrogant man stirs up strife, but **he who trusts in the LORD will prosper"** (Proverbs 28:25).

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver" (Proverbs 25:11).

"A man takes joy in **a fitting reply**—and how good is **a timely word!**" (Proverbs 15:23)

God planned that creation on earth would become His holy kingdom of royal priests. Those who are exposed to the word of God but stubbornly refuse to listen, will be deemed by God as unserviceable to Him in this most special role—royal priests in His holy kingdom (I Peter 2:9, Exodus 19:6, Revelation 1:5-6, 5:9-10). “These **wicked people, who refuse to listen to my words, who follow the stubbornness of their hearts** and go after other gods to serve and worship them, will be like this belt—**completely useless!**” (Jeremiah 13:10).

In eternity, the kingdom on earth will be one family of royal priests and they will reinforce righteousness in all of God’s projects yet to be imagined, formulated, engineered and seen. “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (I Peter 2:9).

From every tribe, every nation, every tongue, from all people on earth through Christ, repentant mankind will become God’s priests.

“And they sang a new song: ‘Worthy are You to take the scroll and open its seals, because You were slain, and by Your blood **You purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them into a kingdom, priests to serve our God,** and they will reign upon the earth’” (Revelation 5:9-10).

Again, the glory of being a priest for Almighty God will not be limited to the kingdom of Israel; it will be a honored and respected role by all of mankind on earth. This role will shine in the Millennium; it will be desired with intensity. Mankind—all of mankind was created for the purpose of being a priest—experts in righteousness, skilled practitioners in the ways of God and ready to uphold and reinforce them throughout eternity. “From Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood, **who has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father**—to Him be the glory and power forever and ever! Amen” (Revelation 1:5-6).

8. THE LAWLESS LIVE ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN WAY.

Regardless of the great works done in Jesus’ name, those Christians who do not live God’s way of love will not enter into His kingdom. “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only **he who does the will of My Father in heaven**. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘**I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness!**’” (Matthew 7:21-23)

Jesus does not recognize Christians who are not living God’s way. “After the master of the house gets up and shuts the door, you will stand outside knocking and saying, ‘Lord, open the door for us.’ But he will reply, ‘**I do not know where you are from!**’” (Luke 13:25).

“Later, the other virgins arrived and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’ But he replied, **‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you’**” (Matthew 25:11-12).

The world today is full of deception. People holding positions of authority are spreading an agenda that is comprised of lies and deceit. The nobility of the Bereans was that they welcomed information and tested it. They were not superficial or intimidated into accepting “as gospel” information coming from the “authoritative sources”. They sifted through the information without their own filter of bias and tested it for truth.

Those who stand firmly under the allegiance of Satan, will continue in his ways of opposition against God’s people and their Creator. When Judgment Day arrives, the sentence will be carried out. “But to the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and sexually immoral and sorcerers and idolaters and **all liars**, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. This is the second death” (Revelation 21:8).

Self-reflection and the decision to overcome the ways that are not of God is critical to salvation. People who have come into the truth, but recklessly ignore the ways of God will be held accountable. They lack the understanding of the great sacrifice of Jesus, Son of God—His unique Son who willingly gave his life for a creation laden in sin. “Whoever, therefore, **eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty** concerning the body and blood of the Lord” (I Corinthians 11:27).

A time is coming, if it has not already begun, of intense deception. Protecting yourself from falling back is building a close relationship with our righteous Father in heaven and following the example of our Savior. Love the truth, love your brothers and sisters in the faith, love your enemies—love everyone. Remember, all of mankind was created to be a unified kingdom of priests in God’s kingdom. The process of bringing all of this creation into the knowledge of God is not yet complete. Understand Jesus’ command to endure patiently, loving everyone from every nation, every tongue, every culture, everywhere knowing they too, were called into God’s kingdom where He has prepared for them a so very special prestigious position of great honor.

During these dark times, hope and faith in God’s promises open a window into that long-awaited moment in God’s grand plan that will bring intense excitement and overwhelming joy and love for the resurrected and transformed repentant people. They can visualize the charged commotion from the trumpeted announcement of the crowning ceremony of every humble God-fearing and God-serving person from earth. It will be a glorious day before our eternal Father and His most honored Son.

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