



Week #3: The Way of Grace

- **Justice** is _____ what we deserve.
- **Mercy** is _____ what we deserve.
- **Grace** is getting _____ deserve.

“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Matthew 5:43-48 (NLT)

Understanding love and hate:

- _____ hate/love.
- _____ hate/love.
- _____ hate/love.

Reactions to our enemies:

- Violent _____.
- Passive _____.
- Active _____.

“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.”

Luke 6:27-28 (NLT)

Rightly ordered responses to our enemies:

- The _____ order: Pray, Bless, Do Good, Love.
- The _____ order: Love, Do Good, Bless, Pray.

Final Thought: We can only love like God when we _____ how we have been loved by God.

This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

Colossians 1:21-22 (NLT)

Discussion Questions

1. Who do you know that displays grace well? What sorts of attitudes and actions does this person exhibit? When was a meaningful time you received grace?
2. When was the last time you didn't choose the way of active love and you reacted in a way that only brought about more complications?
3. How have you seen active love and healthy boundaries displayed together?
4. Is there someone in your life you need to start praying for in light of this talk? If so, what was the situation and how do you sense God is calling you to respond?

Recommended Resources

- *Fearing Bravely: Risking Love for Our Neighbors, Strangers, and Enemies*, by Catherine McNiel
- *Grace: More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine*, by Max Lucado
- *Ministries of Mercy*, by Timothy Keller
- *Running from Mercy*, by Anthony J. Carter
- *Uncommon Ground*, by Timothy Keller and John Inazu

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Week #3: The Way of Grace - **FILL IN**

- **Justice** is GETTING what we deserve.
- **Mercy** is NOT GETTING what we deserve.
- **Grace** is getting WHAT WE DON'T deserve.

“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Matthew 5:43-48 (NLT)

Understanding love and hate:

- SURFACE hate/love.
- FALSE hate/love.
- DEEP hate/love.

Reactions to our enemies:

- Violent RETALIATION.
- Passive VICTIMIZATION.
- Active LOVE.

“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.”

Luke 6:27-28 (NLT)

Rightly ordered responses to our enemies:

- The WRONG order: Pray, Bless, Do Good, Love.
- The RIGHT order: Love, Do Good, Bless, Pray.

Final Thought: We can only love like God when we KNOW how we have been loved by God.

This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

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