

- Luke 6:32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.
- 33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.
- 34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.
- 35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

- 36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.
- 37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:
- 38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

During this Christmas season we are incorporating our annual theme with the premise of glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ as the "reason for the season." During the last few weeks we have considered...

"RENEW YOUR GIFT LIST" (Who do you love?)

"REBUILD YOUR WORKSHOP" (What do you have?)

This morning we will focus upon the need to...

"REKINDLE YOUR LOVE" (How do you give?)

Rev. 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Love flitters like a butterfly, moving erratically from passionately hot to iceberg cold. From our hearts we can love the Lord and quickly love the world. Demas is an example of "flittering love," of a double-minded man.

Col. 4:14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

Phm. 1:24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

2 Tim. 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Seeing the example of Demas, we must guard our hearts in how we love the Lord.

The passage this morning indicates that love can be, and too often is, misunderstood. Consider the examples given and then the conclusion stated in verse 38. The Lord Jesus made several statements that would be wise for us to consider:

## I. WHAT KIND OF GRACE DO YOU HAVE?

- Luke 6:32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.
- 33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.
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Original Word: χάρις

Transliteration: charis

**Definition:** grace, kindness

**Usage:** (a) grace, as a gift or blessing brought to man by Jesus Christ, (b) favor, (c) gratitude, thanks, (d) a favor, kindness.

Xaris - properly, grace (xáris) is preeminently used of the Lord's favor — freely extended to give Himself away to people (because He is "always leaning toward them").

[(xáris) is sometimes rendered "thanks" but the coreidea is "favor, grace" ("extension towards").]

https://biblehub.com/greek/5485.htm

- The Lord Jesus gives three examples which are followed with a poignant question "what thank have ye?"
- The Lord wants us to evaluate ourselves. What kind of grace do you have?
  - A. The Typical Display of Giving
    - 1."...if ye love them which love you..." = reciprocation on an even plane of affection.
    - 2."...if ye do good to them which do good to you..." = reciprocation on an even plane of activity.
      - 3."...if ye lend *to them* of whom ye hope to receive..." = reciprocation on an even plane of accumulation.

- B. The True Distinction of Godlessness
  - 1."...for sinners also love those that love them."
  - 2."...for sinners also do the same."
  - 3."...for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again."
- As He did so often, Jesus "set the bar" with His expectation for believers being much higher than the actions of unbelievers.
- The love of Christ should be of much better quality than that of the world.

## II. WHAT KIND OF GRACE SHOULD YOU HAVE?

- Luke 6:35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.
- 36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.
- 37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:
- 38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

A.The Commands of the Savior (all verbs are imperative)

1."love" → "your enemies," the least worthy

Rom. 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2."do good"

Original Word: ἀγαθοποιέω

Transliteration: agathopoieó

Definition usage: to do good; I do that which is good.

agathós — inherently (intrinsically) good; as to the believer, (agathós) describes what originates from God and is empowered by Him in their life, through faith. https://biblehub.com/greek/15.htm

3 Jn. 1:11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

3."lend" = grant usage with an expectation of return

- Such lending includes the expectation of NOTHING!
  - "...hoping for nothing again..."
- The high expectation for a believer is to go beyond normal expectations – follow the example of the Savior!

B. The Character of the Savior ("...and ye shall be children of the Highest...")

1."he is kind"

a. "unto the unthankful

b."to the evil"

The natural tendency of mankind is to resent or be adverse to kindness toward the "the unthankful and to the evil."

- 2."merciful" v. 36
- The merciful is not looking for justified vengeance, but longsuffering forgiveness.
  - 3."judge not" v. 37a
- The spiritual progression of "merciful" negates judging and condemnation.
  - 4."condemn not" v. 37b
  - 5."forgive" v. 37c
- "Condemnation" is eliminated by forgiveness.

Eph. 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Jesus once again raises the bar of giving attitudes to the highest spiritual level – to give as He would give.

6."give"

Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

- The Lord concludes His directions for giving by issuing a promise to the obedient. A giver is rewarded on the basis of that which is given.
- 2 Cor. 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.
- 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

## **Conclusion**

During the last few weeks we have considered...

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(Who do you love?)

"REBUILD YOUR WORKSHOP"

(What do you have?)

This morning we focused upon the need to...

"REKINDLE YOUR LOVE" (How do you give?)

Life lived as a believer is designed by the Lord Jesus to be lived on a much higher plane than that lived by the unbelieving world. During the Christmas season believers have opportunities to show others the love of Jesus Christ in many ways. Seek His guidance in representing Him and His love — for His glory!