

Luke 6:27-36 **What is Love?**

Four words for love in Greek:

Storge - natural affection

Eros - romantic love; *storge* and *eros* don't appear in the New Testament.

Philia – love between friends, it was warm and merited, Philadelphia is the City of Brotherly Love

Agape – unmerited, self-giving love. This is the most common word for love in the New Testament.

1. How do you define love? What makes you know you are loved – actions, words, feelings, receiving gifts? How does that compare to God's concept of love? (For more thoughts on God's love re-read 1 Corinthians 13, Luke 10:26-27; 1 John 4:10; Galatians 5:22) How should I express love?
2. Consider vs 27: who are my enemies, those who hate me, those who curse me, those who abuse me? Do I even have any that I know of? We could always answer by saying, "some terrorist in a faraway country" but is there anyone in your life that is actively working against you right now? Children and teens might have more answers to this question than adults.
3. There are many Christians around the world who do face persecution. One place to find out more is www.persecution.org, the website of Voice of the Martyrs. If you don't face much persecution yourself, you could certainly pray for those who do. Ask God to strengthen them and to enable them to endure the difficulties they face. Also ask God to glorify Himself by saving those who are doing the persecuting.
4. Consider vs 31 – Why is this command harder the way Jesus put it? How do you wish others would treat you – your children, your parents, your spouse, your friends, your coworkers, other drivers? Name some way in which you are doing that for others. According to this verse, we are to initiate by treating them well first.
5. Consider vss 32-36 – who could you do something to bless? Remember, it should be someone that you don't expect to ever receive anything back from.
6. Consider vss 27-30 – in what ways did Jesus fulfill each of these demands during his arrest, prosecution, and execution on the cross? Example "pray for those who abuse you" = "And Jesus said, 'Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.'" (Luke 23:34).