

# What This Family Does

*Promise: that delighting in the family of God has great reward*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Ge 45:3-15; Ps 103:1-13; 1 Co 15:21-26, 30-42; [Luke 6:27-38](#)

(7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany, 2/20/22)

*Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. – v. 36*

**Lead In** – If there is one thing our fallen human nature loves it is taking center stage and leaving God the role, if any, of being a supporting actor. The First Commandment, “You shall have not other gods,” could be stated this way, “I am God, and you are not.” It is our desire to be God that is at the root of all our sins. Keep that in mind as we consider Jesus’ sermon in Luke.

## I. Ethics That Definitely Cut Against the Grain...

- If you trust God’s Word, listen attentively!
- Yes, love your enemies. And here’s how...
- Being his disciples should distinguish you...

## II. What Is the Rationale For This Way of Life?

- Would be easy to draw mistaken idea... if, then...
- Guess who mistaken idea put on center stage!
- So try visualizing Jesus as center of frame...

## III. An Analogy For the Exhortations

- Something heard by many when growing up...
- Not to be put conditionally, “If you want to...”
- Need to heed warning, but relinquish center stage...

**Parting Shot** – So how do we witness to our Lord? By being merciful, just like our heavenly Father. And when people notice, we testify, I am an ongoing recipient of God’s mercy, and need to be! The mercy and love you received from me is what the family of God does. It is who our Lord Jesus is. And we would be delighted to welcome you into the family.

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**Lk 6:17** And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people.

“If you believe what you like in the Scriptures, and reject what you don’t like, it is not the Word of God you believe, but yourself.” – St. Augustine

Love how? *Nothing about feelings.* Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who abuse you. Turn the cheek to those who strike you. Give your shirt also to the one who takes your coat. Give to beggars without demanding a return. And practice the Golden Rule...

**If, Then:** If you love your enemy. If you give to beggars. If you do not judge. If you forgive. If, then. Then your reward will be great in heaven. Then you will receive much. Then you will be forgiven.

**Matthew 26:52** Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

**Matthew 26:67-68** Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying, “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”

# Luke 6:27-38 ESV

*Love Your Enemies*

<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 abuse you. <sup>29</sup>To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup>And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

<sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup>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 is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

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**Luke 23:34** And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.

**Romans 5:10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

**1 Peter 2:24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

“This is what our family does!” We go to church on Sunday. We do not speak to each other that way. We show respect to teachers. ...

**Not:** “If you want to be a part of our family, then you will...”

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