

## How to Love People Who Rub Us the Wrong Way

### Part 2

Luke 6:27-36

*“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even ‘sinners’ love those who love them . . . Love your enemies . . .”* Luke 6:32, 35 (New International Version)

In Luke 6:37-42, Jesus outlined **four choices** that believers can take in demonstrating love to the difficult people in their lives.

- **Choice #1: AVOID A JUDGMENTAL AND CONDEMNING ATTITUDE.**

*“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned . . .”* Luke 6:37a (NIV)

*I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—<sup>11</sup>But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.* 1 Corinthians 5:9, 11 (NIV)

*“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.<sup>16</sup>By their fruit you will recognize them . . .”* Matthew 7:15, 16a (NIV)

*If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed.* 2 Thessalonians 3:14 (NIV)

*Do not go where evil people go. Do not follow the example of the wicked.<sup>15</sup>Don’t do it! Keep away from evil! Refuse it and go on your way.* Proverbs 4:14-15 (Good News Translation)

*God alone, who made the law, can rightly judge among us. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to condemn your neighbor?* James 4:12 (New Living Translation)

**Application:** With whom do you find it easy to approach with a judgmental attitude? What changes could you make even this week?

- **Choice #2: EXTEND FORGIVENESS.**

*“Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”* Luke 6:37b (NIV)

True forgiveness is to **release another** from the debt they owe you. See Matthew 18.

### Three Steps of Practical Forgiveness

- **Assess** the debt.
- **Choose** to forgive the debt.
- Refuse to **replay** the hurt.

*This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,<sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,<sup>24</sup>and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.* Romans 3:22-24 (NIV)

**Application:** Are you willing to forgive that person who has hurt you?

- **Choice #3: GIVE WHAT YOUR LOVE DICTATES.**

*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”* Luke 6:38 (NIV)

**Application:** What is it that God would ask you to give to that person who is so hard to love in your life?

- **Choice #4: PRACTICE SELF-EVALUATION.**

*“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?<sup>42</sup>How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”* Luke 6:41-42 (NIV)

A believer’s priority must not be on condemning others but on looking and listening carefully to what is going on **inside his own life**.

**Application:** Are you willing to do the hard work of self-examination? Can you willing to be real with yourself and others?