



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Rules of Kingdom Life

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Capernaum and the Galilee region became Jesus' unofficial ministry headquarters. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, sharing scripture and teaching. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly shared the Kingdom of God. On this occasion, Luke shares what Jesus said about the actions and character of people that love and serve Him. They will love others.

“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. (Luke 6:27-28 NASB)

Jesus' followers are called to be different. In previous verses Luke described how Jesus said people are to view themselves. Jesus describes 4 potential attitudes and conditions of His followers and the blessings to be received. Luke records that Jesus is talking to His disciples and tells them that His followers are 'blessed', possessing the favor of God, and uses a personal pronoun "you". A similar message is shared in Matthew 5:1-12. Comparing the two passages reveals a greater spiritual need rather than a physical or economic problem. In the next several verses Jesus describes how followers are to view others. These rules or commands require unconditional love. Jesus' followers are called to be different.

“Love your enemies...” Loving your enemies is not normal and contrary to normal human responses. The normal human response is the opposite; to hate our enemies. Jesus said His followers should be different and if they “hear”, they will do as He commands and love their enemies.

“Do good to those who hate you...” Doing good to those who hate you is not normal. The normal human response is to hate our enemies and do bad things to those we hate. Jesus said His followers should be different and if they “hear”, they will do as He commands and do good to those who hate them.

“Bless those who curse you...” Blessing those who curse you is not normal. The normal human response is to hate our enemies, do bad thing to them when possible and curse them. Jesus said His followers should be different and if they “hear” they will do as He commands and bless those that curse them.

“Pray for those who mistreat you.” Praying for those who mistreat you is not normal. The normal human response is to hate our enemies, do bad things to them when possible, curse them and exclude them from our prayers, our communion with God. Jesus said His followers should be different and if they “hear” they will do as He commands and pray for those that mistreat them.

Rules of Kingdom Life. Loving, doing good, blessing and praying for people that mistreat, curse, hate and are enemies of ours is what Christ calls His followers to do. It is not the normal human response. However, just like the calling of 12 common men to become His apostles and to accomplish uncommon acts, He calls and commands His followers to love in ways that require uncommon love.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you “hear” and love your enemies?
- Do you “hear” and do good to those who hate you?
- Do you “hear” and bless those who curse you?
- Do you “hear” and pray for those who mistreat you?
- Do you “hear” and love in a way that requires uncommon love?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44