



Small Group Bible Study—St. Paul's: Onalaska

WK 6: Our Instincts – His Radical Love

Based on sermon from Feb 24th, 2019

Luke 6:27-38

WARM UP

1. In the sermon, a number of studies were mentioned that reveal that in general people see themselves as morally superior in comparison to others. Why do you think that is? What could be some results of falsely thinking this? _____

Commented [OD1]: Check out the opening paragraph of the sermon for this information.
In general a person's understanding of being good, kind, and loving, is very subjective.
Most unbelievers probably think they are going to heaven, because they are above the 50% mark of good people in the world. Is this maybe part of the reason that unbelievers aren't flocking to church? because they cross their fingers and pray that they are good with God and actually think they are.

INTO THE TEXT

2. In what way does the love that Jesus talks about in these verses make us uncomfortable? Is it even possible to love to this degree? _____
3. Applying verses 29-30 could reinforce someone's bad behavior. Imagine raising your child like this. What is Jesus' point? _____

Commented [OD2]: The practical application means that people will take advantage of us. We can't defend ourselves. We don't like the idea of loving others more than ourselves. Or even loving others as much as ourselves. The one person who could love to this degree was thrown on a cross and killed. No wonder it makes us feel uncomfortable to love to this degree.

We can have moments when we can love to this degree, but we will never be able to do this perfectly.

Commented [OD3]: The point is to not seek revenge. Romans 12:14-21 talk about this and was the epistle lesson for this past Sunday. The point is to love people more than possessions. Finally vs 31 and 36 has the reason why God wants us to do this. Be merciful and treat people like you would want to be treated – this is the golden rule.

DIGGING DEEPER

4. Consider some acts of unbelievers that on the outside seem kind and loving (civic righteousness). What is God's view of these "good" deeds?

a. Read Heb 11:6; Isaiah 64:6

b. What is the blessing of living in a society/community where people are kind, honest and just? What's the danger?

Commented [OD4]: Unbelievers give to charity. Maybe they do it for a tax ride off, but we shouldn't assume that all people do it for this reason. Sometimes it's because they really care about a specific cause, but that still doesn't mean it is considered a good work in God's eyes. Sometimes people do things simply because "it makes me feel good" (which is actually a very selfish reason to do good to someone else.) God's view of these deeds is still sin, because by nature they are enemies of God and separated from him (Is 59:2).

NOW WHAT?

5. How does Jesus' description of love challenge you? What can you work on already this week?

6. What are some possible positive results that come from loving to this degree?

Commented [OD5]: Thank God that while people are by nature wicked and evil, it doesn't mean that all unbelievers are looking to do evil things constantly in our world, otherwise our society would be in shambles. – Honest and just government, law-abiding citizens, stable family units, respect for human life and other people's property make for a better society so that we can live in relative peace in this world.

The danger is that these kind acts may cause some to think they are good in God's eyes, because they donated a lot of money to a hospital or orphanage, or simply because they aren't a serial killer.

Commented [OD6]: Answers will vary. First it has to start with what we shouldn't do, then it can move on with what we should do. We should think about not losing our temper at work, home or anywhere else.

Then how can we show a unique type of love even to those people we don't like for example when someone is angry with you, when someone is getting on your nerves, etc.

Commented [OD7]: In the community in Queens, where I lived the Mormons were very active. They were always cleaning up the streets, literally with a broom, and picking up trash, painting things to make our community look nice. People really liked the Mormons even if they didn't know what they stand for, simply because of their kindness.

We have a greater reason than the Mormons to be kind and loving. While they are working to earn a place with "heavenly father", as they refer to him, we already have a place, that has been won for us by a Savior.

People in the community will recognize us. Our friends will want to know the secret to as calm as what you seem to be in tense situations, as loving as you seem to be when someone wrongs you. They will want to know how you can forgive your spouse so easily when they do something stupid so that they can have the same happy family that we have. They will see us as having a product that they want – peace/love. And they may come to our church to learn more about that which comes from our Savior.