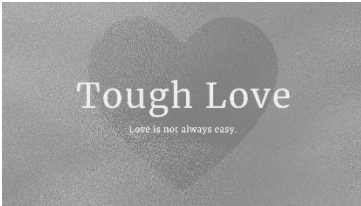


SERMON NOTES



TOUGH LOVE... Loves Enemies!

February 23, 2025

Who are your enemies?

What is the natural thing to do when someone hurts me?

1. I want to get _____.
2. I wish _____ on them
3. I withhold _____.

Luke 6:27-31 "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

1. Tough love loves the _____.

- a) _____ your enemies
- b) _____ to those who hate you
- c) _____ those who curse you
- d) _____ for those who mistreat you.
- e) _____ to one who strikes you.
- f) _____ to those who ask from you.
- g) _____ the return of what someone takes.

2. Tough love brings great _____.

- a) I model the love _____ has shown to me.
 - *Romans 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*
- b) Love reflects the Lord's _____ not the world's _____.
 - *Luke 6:32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. ... 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*
- c) Love focuses on eternal _____ not earthly _____.
 - *Romans 12:17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*
 - *Luke 6:35 Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.*

d) I will either _____ the evil or _____ the evil.

- *Romans 12:20 On the contrary:
"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."
21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*
- *Romans 12:9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.*

**When love gets _____,
focus on the _____ love God has for you!**

1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

MY PERSONAL NOTES

SERMON REFLECTIONS: Apply to My Life

The thought the Spirit is leading me to focus on is:

The change the Spirit is leading me to work on is:

The action the Spirit is prompting me to take is:

My prayers today are:

Someone I would like to bless with today's message: