

enemies, do good to those who hate you,
²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.
²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them.
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 children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

[Visit our website here!](#)

We looked back at **Leviticus 19:18**, where we're told to "love your neighbor as yourself". It doesn't say anywhere that we should hate our enemies but, like what happened quite often, the Pharisees likely assumed that if we are to love our neighbor, it must be implied that we are to hate our enemies which is exactly what was taught. Jesus' "radical" words are simply to clear up this misconception of God's Word.

We looked at the four actions that Jesus points out. He used the words, Love, Do Good, Bless, and Pray For, with regards to how we are to treat our enemies.

We compared these words with what would normally be considered to be acceptable behavior in the world. We would use words like Hate, Treat Poorly, Curse, or even Pray Against. It's common in the world today to hope that "mean" people "get what they deserve". The Jews even prayed for bad things to happen to people that they didn't like or for God to actually punish their enemies. This was totally acceptable behavior and is still acceptable today.

We then looked at what Jesus meant in **verses 29-30**. First, He was not saying that we shouldn't defend ourselves if we're in danger. He was giving us an alternative to just automatically responding to mean with more mean. He was giving us a way to break the cycle of hate that if not broken leads us to sin.

Then Jesus finishes off with **verse 31** and what we now know as the "Golden Rule". We talked about how difficult this can be and how sometimes it can even be impossible to do without God. But, Jesus never said it would be easy.

As a matter of fact, in **verses 32-34**, Jesus goes on to point out that even sinners can love only those who love them and even sinners can do good only to those who are good to them and even sinners expect to be repaid in full. We are to be different.

When we love those who hate us or do good to those who are mean to us, it shows the world what a true Christian is. It shows that we are different.

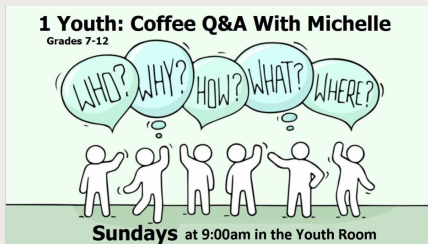
Then Jesus adds the reason why we should do this. He says that we will be identified as children of the most high. God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. He is merciful just as we, who are made in His image, should also be.

The motivation we have to treat even our enemies kindly is not following a rule but to live in our identity as

children of God and to show the world what it means to be a Christian.

We agreed that it's not easy to do but when we live according to God's plan it brings us peace in our heart. Remember that we always have the Holy Spirit in us to help get us through difficult situations.

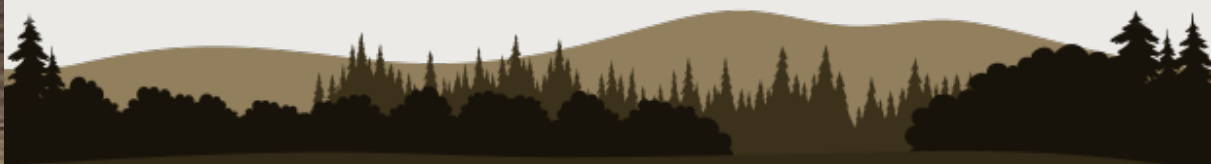
We finished up saying that to Love, Do Good, Bless, and Pray For, does not mean putting ourselves in danger or to stay in a bad situation. We said that you can Love, Do Good, Bless, and Pray For mean people without having to be their buddy or even have them be part of your life. You can do all these things from a safe distance. We also said that we should not expect to change a mean person, that is left up to God to do. Living according to God's plan, His way, is for us to do and that's all we need to do.



Pre-Service Coffee Q&A

Sundays at 9:00am

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, starting at 9:00am, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.



Living Word Ahwatukee
Phone: (480) 584-6116
Email: chris@1youthministry.com
Website: www.1youthministry.org

Connect with us



1 Youth Ministry | 14647 S. 50th Street, Suite 16, Phoenix, AZ 85044

[Unsubscribe chris@conceptsncreations.com](mailto:chris@conceptsncreations.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by chris@1youthministry.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!