

My neighbor is my enemy

March 26, 2017

David Emery, Senior Minister



Middletown
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Scripture

Luke 6:27-36 NLT

27 “But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. 28 Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. 30 Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don’t try to get them back. 31 Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

32 “If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! 33 And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! 34 And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

35 “Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. 36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

“If your understanding of the divine made you kinder, more empathetic, and impelled you to express sympathy in concrete acts of loving-kindness, this was good theology. But if your notion of God made you unkind, belligerent, cruel, self-righteous, or if it led you to kill in God’s name, it was bad theology.”

- Karen Armstrong, *The Spiral Staircase*

Discussion Questions

1. How does this essential teaching of Jesus challenge you?
2. Where in your life do you most need to apply this teaching?
3. What changes does this teaching require in your heart?

How does the Karen Armstrong quote impact you?

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Group Life @ Middletown

If you are interested in taking part in a sermon-based discussion group or other small group, visit middletownchristian.org or contact Tracey Spann, tspann@middletownchristian.org to learn more.

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