Introduction
North Central District Superintendent Brian Farone (Include a picture)
EFCA President Kevin Kompelien (Include a picture)
We have gone from Mayberry to Modern Family.
We have become increasingly diverse.
How will we reach them?
We need to love like Jesus.

I. Love your enemies. Verses 27-30

The Greek language has four words for love.

- Storge – natural affection
- Eros – romantic love
- Philia – friendship love
- Agape – unconditional love

As Christians, we are called to love like Jesus.

Jesus gives us some radical examples.

Jesus is not saying we should give up all personal defense and the right to private property.

“If Christians took this one literally, there would be a class of saintly paupers owning nothing, and another of prosperous idlers and thieves.” Leon Morris

What Jesus is calling for is a love that is not vengeful, but generous and kind.

Who are our enemies?

It is those who hate you, exclude you, insult you and reject you because of Jesus.

How do we respond when we feel attacked? Do we respond with insult for insult or with a blessing instead?

“Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For, whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.”
11 They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.
12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” I Peter 3:9-12

II. Do Good. Verses 31-35

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

It is the Golden Rule.

It doesn’t just apply to our friends. It even applies to our enemies.

How could you show the love of Christ to a neighbor, a co-worker, or a classmate?

III. Be Merciful. Verse 36

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

God is rich in mercy.

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.” Ephesians 2:4-5

God’s mercy moved him to send his Son to be our savior.

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

Loving like Jesus will move us to action.

If you will live this way, “Then your reward will be great and you will be Sons of the Most High.”

Conclusion

How will we bring the gospel to a rapidly changing world?

Love like Jesus.

• Love your enemies.
• Do good.
• Be merciful.