

## Love: Why Jesus' Teaching on Love Is Controversial and Unique

Luke 10:25-37

**To Beginners**, a quiz: Did Jesus say this about love?

The Good Samaritan passage is about love: **(1) loves are to be prioritized**, and **(2) love is to be proactive**.

(1) Prioritized

- A man loves his wife and he loves his job. Which one should he love more?
- If you reverse the two greatest commandments, you end up saying, "Whatever makes them happy..."
  - God becomes god if you reverse the two greatest commandments!

(2) Proactive:

- The Good Samaritan takes the initiative!
- Also proactive, The Golden Rule: "And as you wish that others would do to you, **do so** to them." (Matt 7:12)
- **Skeptics: "The Golden Rule is inspiring, but do I really have to be proactive towards all people? I mean, where does this end?"**
  - The Silver Rule vs. The Golden Rule. Isn't the Silver Rule fairer in what it demands from us? "What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others."

- But Jesus kept the Golden Rule, supremely in his death for us. How does this change things?
  - Jesus does not give a freestanding ethic, but instead it was completely dependent upon his death and resurrection for us!

**Strugglers: How can I love one another as Jesus did?**

- "Love one another. **As I have loved you**, so you must love one another." Jesus (John 13:34)
- Answer this: How has he loved you? How you answer that question makes all the difference in the world...

Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Choose an extended family member. How can you apply the Golden Rule in what you might do for them this week? Will you do it?
2. Read John 13:1-17:
  - a. What does this passage explicitly say about love?
  - b. Did Jesus wash his disciples' feet as an example for us? What does the passage say?
  - c. When shall we be blessed, according to this passage? Do you want to be blessed? How might you pursue it this week, based on what you have read?