

SEPTEMBER 2019 COUNSELING DEPARTMENT NEWS



A Word from Dr. Mark Crook:

The following is a blog I recently read and thought it was definitely worth sharing. Without a doubt it addresses something we are experiencing in our country on a daily basis. We are being divided by leaders who are encouraging us to do hateful acts and gestures to those who do not agree with us and see things as we do. Sometimes as I meditate on our Lord's command to "Love your enemies" I rationalize it to a point that makes it a little more satisfying to my palate.

How to love our enemies by Kathy Ferguson Litton

"Love your enemies" – Jesus

Perhaps this is among Jesus' most revolutionary statements — and certainly most humanly counterintuitive. We already were struggling to "love our neighbor," and then He throws this at us. Seriously, Jesus? Our enemies?

He did have plenty. And even a frenemy or two. Yet in His Sermon on the Mount, He shockingly resets what people and their lives should look like in the Kingdom of God:

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. (Matt. 5:43-48)

Jesus even defines enemy for us:

- He means people who oppose us, try to hurt us.
- People who have harmful intentions and clear hostility toward us.
- Those who literally persecute us.

Then He points out what we should do:

- Love them.
- Bless them.
- Do good toward them.
- Pray for them.

I don't know about you, but this is what I do for my family, not my enemy. Our enemies run the spectrum from mild hurt, to a serious offense, to one who devastated our lives permanently. Our enemies may attack us physically or merely gossip about us. They may even persecute us because of our beliefs. In our highly charged religious and political climate, our enemies may be in the Middle East or just on the opposite pole of current American politics. Racial and ethnic tensions are very high, creating battlefields and enemies in communities and hearts. Ironically, churches themselves have people who powerfully oppose each other — and some even have harmful intentions.

Jesus tells us we have to respond counter to our hearts and counter to our culture. He says plainly, "Don't just love those who love you," love your enemy. He says we then will be true sons of our Father in heaven. In other words, we would be treating them like He treats us.

Two countercultural responses we can learn from

Christianity Today's article entitled [Chick-Fil-A's Lesson on Loving Your Enemies](#) details the heated controversy in the summer of 2012 over Dan Cathy's refusal to support gay marriage. It was polarizing on both fronts as

those for gay marriage boycotted Chick-Fil-A and those opposed flocked to the popular eatery. CT said "We did what we are too good at: opposing our enemies." But not Chick-Fil-A's CEO Cathy! He moved toward his "enemy," Shane Windmeyer, Campus Pride director, gay activist, and openly gay man. Cathy reached out to hear more about LGBT concerns regarding his company. Cathy modeled something powerful when he said, "We don't have to agree with our enemies, but we still have to honor and love them." Much to everyone's surprise, Windmeyer "came out" as Cathy's friend in a Huffington Post article.

Read more from Dan Cathy:

The current cultural milieu seems to have hoodwinked us to believe the false premise that we must both agree with and bless our enemies' choices in order to love them. Christianity does not give us permission to dishonor or disregard those whom we perceive as enemies. It does not require us to come in lockstep with their perspectives as a prerequisite to sharing the love of Christ. Cathy seemed to get this. When we can grasp the reality that others are worthy of our love simply because they are made in God's image—not because they agree with us—bridging ideological divides becomes possible. How might our lives look if instead of cutting off relationships, we chose to say, "I don't share your conviction on that topic, but I would like to hear more about why this is so important to you." If nothing else, listening well dials down defensiveness and allows for empathy, which moves us in the direction of love.

"Move in the direction of love." Powerful words.

The second response is by Martin Luther King Jr. in his sermon [Loving Your Enemies](#). Delivered at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church Montgomery, Alabama, Nov. 17, 1957:

Another way that you love your enemy is this: When the opportunity presents itself for you to defeat your enemy, that is the time which you must not do it. There will come a time, in many instances, when the person who hates you most, the person who has misused you most, the person who has gossiped about you most, the person who has spread false rumors about you most, there will come a time when you will have an opportunity to defeat that person. It might be in terms of a recommendation for a job; it might be in terms of helping that person to make some move in life. That's the time you must not do it. That is the meaning of love. In the final analysis, love is not this sentimental something that we talk about. It's not merely an emotional something. Love is creative, understanding goodwill for all men. It is the refusal to defeat any individual. When you rise to the level of love, of its great beauty and power, you seek only to defeat evil systems. Individuals who happen to be caught up in that system, you love, but you seek to defeat the system.

Keep in mind the very volatile context. The hate was strong against him and his movement. His followers being struck, hosed with water, fire bombed, killed, etc. This is not a small moment, but a highly charged one. And eventually King was killed by an enemy.

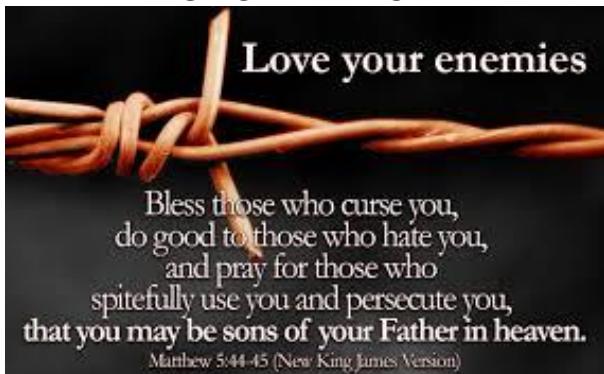
I love Martin Luther King's language in these thoughts:

When you rise to the level of love, of its great beauty and power, you seek only to defeat evil systems. Individuals who happen to be caught up in that system, you love, but you seek to defeat the system. Reading this helped me see how very slowly God has changed my perspective toward my enemies. When I thought of my enemies as "bad" people, they remained my enemy. They were just like me

— living in an evil system of sin. But in time I began to see my enemies through a gospel lens. I saw them as sinners who are deceived by sin.

I am caught in the same system of sin. My enemies really aren't the issue; sin is. Diverting my attention from them to sin and deception has gone a long way in helping me love as Matthew 5 suggests. When I readily relate my enemies to the idea of sin and being deceived, I am more prone to dispense love and grace — as my Father dispensed to me. This is the beautiful, powerful love MLK called for. And modeled by Jesus Himself: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:24) Let's be countercultural and love our enemies.

VERSE OF THE MONTH:



Sept 2 Labor Day LBU Office Closed
Sept 16-19 Last week to add/drop classes
Oct 18&19 NW Louisiana Soul Winning Conf.
Nov 26-29 Thanksgiving Week-No Classes
Dec 9-12 Week of final exams fall semester



The LBU School of Psychology and Christian Counseling welcomed the following new students during the month of August:

Chrissy McMenis
Tammi Mossman
Lou Ann Stokes
William Wright



THOUGHTS ON LOVING YOUR ENEMIES....

“Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

“You never so touch the ocean of God's love as when you forgive and love your enemies.”
– Corrie Ten Boom

“The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend.” Abraham Lincoln

“What is perfection in love? Love your enemies in such a way that you would desire to make them your brothers ... For so did He love, Who hanging on the Cross, said "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)
-Saint Augustine

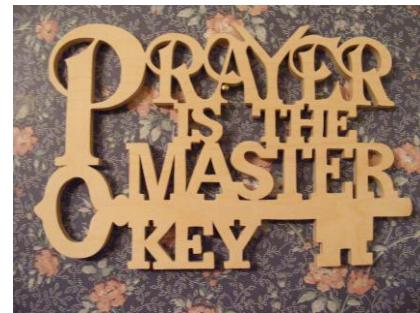
“The Law found more than it lost when Christ said, ‘Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven’ (Matthew 5:44-45). This most important commandment summarizes in a word the universal discipline of patience, since it does not allow us to do evil even to people who deserve it.” - Tertullian

“If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.” - Nelson Mandela



Christopher Anderson
Rosena Capers
Brittany Fryman
Twana Harris
Elwin Lee
Scott Rheinschmidt
Kurt Smalley
Lap Wa Tae

John Barrett
Josephine Dyck
Marie Ruth Galedo
Sharlene Johnson
Edgard Morgan
Anna Rush
Pamela D. Smith



Jimmie Hefner- he has serious health issues and pray for his mother, Jean, has breast cancer 8/19

Steven Pratt- pray for him and his family, Steven's dad passed away 7/19

Toney Pepper-Update mother in law, Josephine Fuller passed away in May, keep him and his family in prayer 6/19

Alisha Cory- daughter of our Executive Vice President Dr. Sandra Cory, had surgery to remove tumor from brain stem pray for speedy recovery & complete restoration- 4/19

Alex Duncan- Update= baby Juda born on the 14th , mom had trouble with Csection & still having trouble also need prayer for finances.
7/19

Sharon Bradley- her husband has dementia and she needs strength- 3/19 Update-praise report, was able to get her husband in a facility to help take care of him. Please continue to pray for her & her husband- 6/19

NOTE: You can submit prayer requests that you want posted on our newsletter to:

panderson@lbu.edu or markcrook@lbu.edu

**Please be sure that you tell us how to word your prayer request. If you would like for the staff of LBU to pray for you but do not wish to have your prayer request posted on the website or newsletter, please let us know at the time that you contact us for prayer. –Thanks

Prayer Request Update- To keep our prayer request list current, we are now placing a post-date after all prayer requests and will keep them listed for six months. If you wish to have your prayer request re-added to the list you may submit your request to the Bible dept. by phone or email.