

The Gospel and VIOLENCE

REFLECTIONS

What did you take away from Noel's message?

Were you challenged to respond in a particular way?

Would you add any other promoters of violence or promoters of peace to those Noel mentioned?

SEARCH SCRIPTURE

Read Luke 6:27-36.

"To you who are listening I say" ...is this a throwaway line or does it reveal something about our possible response to the teaching to come?

What value is there in loving, blessing, doing good and praying for your enemy?

We often think these things will help shift the thinking of our "enemy" and they may stop doing it. This is true. **But how does following these instructions change our outlook, our actions, and our attitudes?**

Do v29/30 frustrate you? Does Jesus really expect us to do this? **Why are these so difficult? How do these promote peace?**

Think about the promoters of violence (pain, power, personal gain and pressures). **Is it possible to live out v31 and operate out of any of these promoters of violence? Why?/Why not?**

Why does Jesus seem so unimpressed by love and generosity to those we are friendly with?

Do you think this is the sphere of love we live out of the most, to the neglect of loving our enemies?

Loving our enemies is a radical idea... why does it need to be so radical?

What do you think the great reward is (v35)?

"and you will be children of the Most High" ...how does this statement fit with being saved by grace? What is it referring to?

Loving our enemies promotes peace but V35-36 indicates something else it promotes. **What does it promote?**

Does this add meaning to Colossians 3:15 where we are told to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts? Its more than just our peace with God, it is also calling us to live it out so others are pointed to Him.

APPLICATION

Brainstorm some ways that you can promote peace in the following spheres of life:

- **In family**
- **In workplace**
- **In local community**
- **In Australia**
- **In the world**