***Love those who are mean***

**Question Group 1: Luke 6:27-28**

**Jesus says, “I tell you who hear me,” and then He gives a sentence made of four statements. Each of these starts with an action word. What are the four action words Jesus uses?**

**Look at these words. Considering whom Jesus is talking about, what is so unusual about the actions these words represent?**

**If we wanted to try and think of the opposite of these actions, what action words might we come up with?**

**Imagine for a moment that you weren’t a Christ-follower, and you treated mean people in the ways we just listed. Imagine that you thought ill of them, or that you wished that they would get what they deserved, or that you just ignored them all together. Would this be acceptable behavior? Why or why not?**

**Question Group 2: Luke 6:31**

**Even those people who don’t believe in God know the concept behind verse 31. When it comes to how we treat mean people, why is this verse so amazing?**

**Do you really live this out? Seriously. Think about it. How close are you to truly treating mean people the EXACT way you want to be treated? Why is this so hard?**

**What type of attitude does Jesus want us to take toward others?**

**Question Group 3: Luke 6:32-36**

**Jesus repeats the phrase “love your enemies.” He really wants to make sure His audience gets it! But Jesus takes a different angle here. In verse 35, He makes a statement that ties our actions to our identities as children of God. What does He say?**

**Jesus does this same thing again in verse 36. How does Jesus tie our actions to our identities as Christ-follower?**

**We just talked about how hard it is to live out the Golden Rule. How does Jesus’ teaching about our identity help us see the Golden Rule in a different light?**

**Wrap Up**

**How might you do good to the mean people you know?**

**Praying for mean people is easier said than done. What are some examples of what kinds of prayers we might pray for those people who are mean to us?**