

Love Language
[Exodus 3:1-15](#); [Romans 12:9-21](#)

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Let's look at our Romans text just a minute. Let's think about it. Does any of it strike you as genuinely new? Is there anything here you've never heard before? "Wow, love your enemies. What a strange idea! Do not claim to be wiser than you are. Who ever heard of that?" Does any of it genuinely surprise you?

Probably not. Probably not. Probably someone taught you, from an early age, to do all these things. Maybe it was family, maybe it was friends. Maybe you learned it at church or school but somewhere or other, someone or other taught you to live this way, "because that's what we do. People like us, people in our family, players on this team, if you work for this company, that's what we do." And for a lot of people that's enough. That's all the reason they need.

But we as Christians, we know differently. We do all these things not just because it's expected. Not just because our social group and our culture says this is what people like us do, how we live.

No. As Christians we live this way for two reasons. Two very specific, very special reasons. First, we live this way because this is God's love language. This is how we tell God how much we love God. This is God's love language.

When you love someone, you want to show them how much you love them. That's important. But it's important to show them in a way they understand. It's important to speak their love language. If your beloved is a Cincinnati Bengals fan, buying them an expensive Chicago Bears jersey isn't going to make a big impression. If you like elaborate birthday parties, and the one you love prefers low-key, throwing a huge party is not sending a message of love. If your partner values punctuality, you try your best to be on time. If your partner values punctuality and you're always running late, you're not sending a message of love. When we love someone, it's important to speak their love language.

When we're trying to show God how much we love God then oppressing the poor, cursing our enemies and repaying evil for evil is not going to do it. If we want to speak God's love language, we need to empower the poor, bless our enemies and repay evil with good. Then we are speaking God's love language.

Speaking the right love language. Showing God how much we love God in God's love language. That's one reason we as Christians follow these instructions.

Another reason we live this way is because as Christians, this is our vocation. Living this way is our Christian 'job.' As Christians part of our job, our vocation, our calling, is showing others how to live a godly life. It's teaching others how to speak God's love language.

We are not all called to be Moses, of course not. We are not all called to be Moses, but we are all called. Our call may not involve burning bushes or holy ground, but we are called. As Christians, we are all called to live a Christian life, a godly life, and to share that life with others.

To put it another way, as Christians we are called to be language teachers. We are not called to teach French, Spanish, German, Mandarin, Greek or Hebrew. We don't even have to be bilingual. But we are called to be language teachers. We are called to teach God's language of love.

Again – it's not about nouns and pronouns and subordinate clauses. It's about how we live. We teach God's love language by how we live, by living a godly life.

Rejoicing in hope, weeping with those who weep, overcoming evil with good – these are not just things we do. It's not just a way of life, as good as any other. No. This is God's love language. May we speak it, and teach it, well. Amen.