Are You A Good Neighbor?

Greg Kline · Matthew 22:34–40

INTRODUCTION

- This morning I want to talk about being a good neighbor. I'm going to ask the question: Are you a good neighbor?
- Is it about taking care of one another? Is it about caring for each other's pets? Is it being a good person? Or is there more to it than that?

1 Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Leviticus 19:18; Romans 13:8–10; Matthew 22:34–40

- You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.
- Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
- And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.
- How often have you considered that loving your neighbor is like, or can be likened unto loving God with all of your heart, all of your mind, and all of your soul?

2 Who Is Involved? We Are All Responsible

Matthew 25:31–46; Luke 10:25–29

- If we simply love God, we will love others.
- Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these of my brothers, you did it to me.
- What makes these people righteous, what separated them was their love of others, was the fact that they loved even the least of those who were their brethren.
- We are to be good, loving neighbors to all people. There is no loophole.
- But he desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, and who is my neighbor?

3 Why? It's God's Plan

Acts 2:43–45

- It was God's plan, his forethought that decided that we, as his people, would be able to take care of other people in this context who are his people, so that their needs would be met.
- Because if we want to follow God's plan, we have to do our part.
- You never know who you are in God's plan, where you are supposed to be.
- How much more so should we be looking, begging even for opportunities to serve?

4 So the World Will Know

John 13:35

- By this, all people will know that you are my disciples. Why? If you have love for one another.
- You see, when we act, we represent God.
- People expect Christians to be loving. Is that unfair? No. Christ tells us it should be that way.

5 Because God First Loved Us

1 John 4:7–19; John 13:34

- Beloved, if God so loved us, we so also ought to love one another.
- We love because he first loved us.
- God loved us so much, he was willing to give his son, and we question giving our time.
- Loving as Christ loved us. Whoa. Can we imagine doing anything with the love of Christ?

6 How Can We Be a Good Neighbor? Love Your Enemies

Luke 6:27–36; Luke 9:23–26

- But I say to you who hear, love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who abuse you.
- The first most elemental step in loving others is to focus on loving all.
- The answer from Christ is let them. Let them be rude. You be a Christian. You submit to Christ.
- And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **The only question that remains to each and every one of us is are we the neighbor Christ expects us to be?**

MY NOTES