

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

1. SCRIPTURES.

1. (Mat 22:37 KJV) Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (Mat 22:38 KJV) This is the first and great commandment. (Mat 22:39 KJV) And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
2. (Mark 12:30 KJV) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. (Mark 12:31 KJV) And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

2. GOD=S COMMAND.

1. *Love God.*
2. *Love your neighbor as yourself.*
3. *How can you love your neighbor, if you don't love yourself?*
4. *How can you love God, if you don't love your neighbor?*

3. WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOR?

1. (Luke 10:29 KJV) But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?
2. (Luke 10:30 KJV) And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. (Luke 10:31 KJV) And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. (Luke 10:32 KJV) And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. (Luke 10:33 KJV) But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, (Luke 10:34 KJV) And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. (Luke 10:35 KJV) And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. (Luke 10:36 KJV) Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?
3. (Luke 10:37 KJV) And he said, He that showed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

4. IDENTIFYING YOUR NEIGHBOR.

1. *Start at home.*
 1. Loving your wife.
 1. (Eph 5:28 KJV) So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
 2. (Eph 5:33 KJV) Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so

love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

2. Supporting your family.

1. (1 Tim 5:8 KJV) But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.
2. (Eph 6:4 KJV) And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

2. ***The brotherhood.***

1. John 13:34 - *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another..."*
2. John 13:35 - *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*
3. I Pe. 3:8 - *"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous."*
4. I Jo. 3:14 - *"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."*
5. Ro. 12:10 - *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."*

3. ***Friends.***

1. *"A man that hath friends (rea) must show himself friendly (neighborly); and there is a friend (ahab) that sticketh closer than a brother."*
2. Friends (rea) - an associate; neighbor; friendly (neighborly).
3. Friend (ahab) - to have affection for; close bond that exists between two people whose hearts and minds are blended together as were those of David and Jonathan; a true friend who will love us as his own soul--will stick closer than a brother.
 1. Moses was friend of God
 2. Jesus - *"I call you friends..."*
 3. Our spouse should be our best friend

4. ***Those who cross your path.***

1. Casual acquaintance.
2. Enemy. Mt. 5:43-45, 46 - *"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?"*

5. FOUR GREEK WORDS FOR LOVE AND THEIR MEANING IN MARRIAGE.

1. ***Eros*** (Romance).
 1. The love, that more than any other kind, carries with it the idea of romance.
 2. Eros is romantic, passionate, and sentimental.
 3. Often the starting point for marriage, being the kind of love that lovers fall into and write songs and poetry about.
 4. Conditional love.
 1. I can love you if you love me
 2. I can love you if you are lovable
 3. I can love you as long as you serve my purpose; add to my happiness and contribute to my cause.
2. ***Storge*** (Belongingness).
 1. Comprised of natural affection and a sense of belonging to each other.
 2. Kind of love shared by parents and children or brothers and sisters.
 3. We all have a need to feel that we belong.
3. ***Phileo*** (Friendship).
 1. Cherishes and has tender affection for the beloved, but always expects a response.
 2. It is a love of relationship--comradeship, sharing, communication, friendship.
 3. In a marriage, *Eros* makes lovers, *phileo* makes dear friends who enjoy closeness and companionship.
 4. Share time and interests.
4. ***Agape*** (God kind of love).
 1. The totally unselfish love that has the capacity to give and keep on giving without expecting in return.
 2. The unnatural love of God
 1. While we were sinners, God loved us
 2. For God so loved the world he gave...
 3. Mt. 5:44. Love your enemies; Bless them that curse you; Do good to them that hate you; Pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.
 3. Non-emotional kind of love that is deliberate
 1. Love by choice; act of will
 2. Not based on feelings and emotions
 3. A personal act of commitment
 4. Agape is unconditional love.
 1. Love each other for what they are; not for what they do, promise, or give.
 2. I want only what is best for you.
 5. Unselfish.
 1. Gives and gives; asking nothing in return.

2. Self-giving love that goes on loving when other becomes unlovable.
 3. Loves whether other deserves it or not.
 4. Sacrificing.
5. ***A distinction between agape and phileo love in John 21:15.***
1. *"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest (agape) thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love (phileo) thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs."*
 2. Phileo expresses the love of mere personal affection or liking. It could never be said of God that He "Phileo" the sinful world, as far as phileo is concerned, he could only abominate the foul world. Jesus never asked us to love our enemies in the sense of "Phileo"; he never himself loved his enemies in this way. But "Agape", yes, with this love, did God love the world, and we can love our enemies, comprehending all that is wrong, sanctifying the world, converting our enemies. (Richard Lenski, German Scholar).
6. **THE POWER OF LOVE.**
1. ***Love covers a multitude of sins.*** Pr. 10:12 - *"Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins."*
 2. ***Love works with faith.*** Ga. 5:6 - *"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."*
 3. ***Love in place of fear.***
 1. II Tim. 1:7 - *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."*
 2. I Jo. 4:18 - *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. he that feareth is not made perfect in love."*