

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Matthew 22:39 “And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Yesterday’s devotion was about God’s Command to love Him with all your heart, soul and mind. Today’s devotion continues with Jesus’ next words that God expects you to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Finally, Jesus concluded, “On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Review all of the Ten Commandments and you will quickly realize Jesus is correct. The first three Commandments are concerned with your relationship with God loving, honoring and obeying Him with all your heart, soul and that you have complete faith in Him, properly use His name and that you faithfully worship Him. The remaining Commandments give guidance how you love, honor and obey God with all your heart, soul and mind through a proper relationship with your neighbor.

What does love for your neighbor look like? “Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put-on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” (Colossians 3:12-14) In God’s Commandments He says to love you neighbor. The love He desires you to have is described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

Jesus demonstrated this love from the cross when He prayed to His heavenly Father, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” Yes, He prayed for His enemies. This is the love Jesus has for you. This is the love He wants you to have for your neighbors, “. . . just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

Prayer: O Lord, You have loved me unconditionally. As you have loved me help me to love family, friends, work associates and even those who make my life miserable. I ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul Now love Him in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well In Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown; Let all contention cease;
Be God's the glory that we seek; Be ours His holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined We are in Him made one.

For love excludes no race or clan That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all Whose Father is the same.

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