

Won't You Be My Neighbor?: More Than A Feeling

Andy Deane · 01/05/25 · Leviticus 19:9-18

Question: Do you love your neighbor?

To answer this question most of us search our hearts for a feeling, but in truth, we should look back at the history of our actions towards them to learn if we love them or not.

Mark 12:29-31, 29 *"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'* (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) 31 *The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* There is no commandment greater than these." (Leviticus 19:18b)

WHEN JESUS SAID "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR" IT WAS ALREADY DEFINED IN LEVITICUS 19:9-18a:

Leviticus 19:9-10, 9 *"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.*

It Means: Leaving Room to Bless Others

- Matthew 25:35-40, 35 *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'* 37 *"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we...?'* 40 *"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

Leviticus 19:11-12, 11 *Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another. 12 Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.*

It Means: Hands Off What Isn't Yours & Reflecting Truth

- Ephesians 4:28, *Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.*
- Colossians 3:9, *Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices...*

Leviticus 19:13-14, 13 *Do not defraud or rob your neighbor. Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight. 14 Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the Lord.*

It Means: Keeping Commitments & Showing Compassion

- Matthew 5:37, *All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.*

Leviticus 19:15-16, 15 *Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly. 16 Do not go about spreading slander among your people. Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the Lord.*

It Means: Checking Your Bias & Protecting Others

- Acts 10:34-35, 34 *Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.*
- Matthew 12:36, *everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they spoke.*

Leviticus 19:17-18a, 17 *Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt. 18a Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people...*

It Means: Calling Out Wrong & Letting go of Grudges

- 1 John 4:20, *Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.*
- Ephesians 4:15, *speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.*
- Romans 12:19, *Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

Leviticus 19:18b, 18b...*but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.*

Why does loving a neighbor matter so much to God?

- Galatians 5:14, *the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*
- James 2:8, *If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.*

Visit cornerstone.org/neighbor to learn 100 ways to meet your neighbors, or about our "[rentable outreach kits](#)."