

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

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“Love your neighbor as yourself.” This is God’s command; it is not optional. When we hear His voice, let us choose to obey, not only through our words, but through the way we care, guide, forgive, and show up for others.

1. LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR SHOULD BE BASED ON HOW WE LOVE OURSELVES.

1.1. The Ten Commandments are summed up in this saying, *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:8–10).

1.2. The commandment is centered on LOVE. When we love others, we should love them as we love ourselves. Love should be our core value.

2. LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

2.1. We are all accountable for one another. When we see other people doing wrong, we should speak up and guide them. If we fail to warn them, we become accountable for remaining silent – this is a sin of omission. However, when we warn others and they refuse to listen, they are responsible for their own guilt (Ezekiel 3:18).

2.2. When we correct a fellow believer, we should correct privately/one-on-one and with love. If he/she listens, we have helped in restoration. If he/she refuses, let us involve one or two others, and finally involve the church if necessary. (*Matthew 18:15-17*).

2.3. Be mindful that our good intentions are coupled with the right approach, with care not arrogance.

3. PARENTING: Good Managers or Good Shepherds?

3.1. As parents, we naturally love and discipline our children for their good. However, we must use the right approach so that our children will still feel the love and motivation behind the correction. Otherwise, harsh or insensitive discipline will make

make them feel unloved; consequently, they will withdraw and become distant.

3.2 Good managers give clear direction and discipline. On the other hand, good shepherds guide and correct in a way that feels safe, constructive, and more importantly, improves the relationship.

3.3 Establish a connection before guiding. Break the ice by talking about things that interest them and create a comfortable space for conversation. Give appreciation/affirmation for both the small and big things they do. Thereafter, suggest ways to improve, rather than simply pointing out what they did wrong.

3.4 Forgive the children when they are sorry. Jesus said, *“forgive seventy times seven times”* (Matthew 18:21–22). Conversely, when we are at fault, we should also apologize; it is an act of strength.

4. JESUS DEMONSTRATED LOVE FOR HIS PARENTS.

4.1. Joseph and Mary found Jesus in the temple focused on His Father’s work. But He returned home with them and remained obedient to them.

4.2. At the wedding in Cana, Mary said, “do exactly what He tells you.” Jesus responded lovingly to Mary’s request and filled the jars with fine wine.

4.3. While suffering on the cross, Jesus made sure Mary would be cared for when He told the disciples, “behold your mother.”

Conclusion: When we hear God’s voice, let us not harden our hearts. Let us obey and be there for one another.

Reflection: How do you show love to the people around you?

Prayer: Lord, teach me to love others the way You want me to. Help me show it through my actions every day. Amen.

SCRIBES MINISTRY:

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