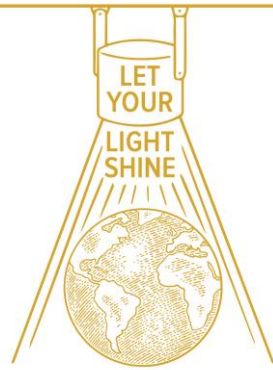


THE NEIGHBORHOOD



2.5 Each member is aware of the opportunities to serve in the community and are involved.

Does God really care about our community, our neighborhood? If we followed Jesus around for a little while, what would we see Him doing in the neighborhood? What did He teach about this? Let's find out.

What or Who is My Neighbor?

Read Luke 10:25-37.

This is a well-known story for most of us. 'Love your neighbor as yourself' is the command, and "Who is my neighbor?" is the responding question. A test for Jesus. So, He responds with the parable of the Good Samaritan to make a point.

Q. What is the point of this story?

Q. So, then, who is YOUR neighbor?

Q. How do we LOVE our neighbor?

God does not love like people do. We love imperfectly, with our own desires and needs all mixed through our attempts to care for someone else. So how can we love our neighbor the way God wants us to?

In the world, but not of it. This matters.

Read John 3:1-21.

Christ said we had to be born again, born of the Spirit. Go back to [Acts 2](#) and the beginning of the Church. (KMI 2.4) Being born again is the gift of the Holy Spirit and makes us part of Christ's body, His Church. We are no longer "of" this world, but rather, "of" the Kingdom of God.

Because we are no longer of this world, but are still in it, we can bring the love and power of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ (the world we are now of) to the world we are still in. If we were still of this world, we would have nothing new to give to it.

John 15:18-19 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. (9) If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (15) Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. (16) In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Now we been given a heart that can love as God loves. This is agape love, sacrificial love. We can love freely without needing anything in return. This is what we get to carry into our communities, our neighborhoods. This is the new thing the world needs.

Q. How can you use your unique gift (s) from God in your community?

SUMMARY

Loving our neighbor is a command, and God gives us the ability to love like He does. This is exactly what our communities need and what you, as a born-again believer, get to bring. How this looks is up to you and God. Your unique leadership style, saturated with the Holy Spirit and used to cause the flourishing of your community, is the new thing they need.

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION QUESTION

Q. Christ's love in you will affect your leadership. It's inevitable for you to serve your community differently than a leader who is still of the world. How will your leadership look different?

RESOURCES FOR NEXT STEPS

- Bible Reading
John 3
- RightNow Media @WorkStudy
The New Birth
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/597>
- RightNow Media @WorkStudy
Love Works
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/420191>
- Books
Love Works
<https://www.christianbook.com/works-seven-timeless-principles-effective-leaders/joel-manby/9780310359746/pd/359741?event=ESRCG>