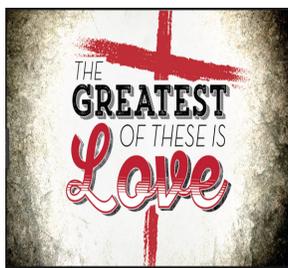


“But the greatest of these is LOVE!”

Part 5: “Love your neighbor as yourself ...”

Matthew 22:39; Leviticus 19:9-18; Luke 10:25-37; Romans 13:8-10



Introduction: The difference between Christianity and all the other religions of the world is LOVE for GOD !!

II Corinthians 3:16-18: “ ... where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom !” (vs. 17).

Matthew 22:34-40: “And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (vs. 39).

The desire and ability to truly love your neighbor as yourself must flow from your love for God!

We who believe are saved by grace through faith TO obedience ... TO love for God that flows into love for my neighbor.

I. God commands you to love your neighbor ...

Leviticus 19:9-18 ...

As God explains through Moses what it means to love your neighbor, He also gives us the reason for loving our neighbor: “*I am the LORD, your God!*” (vss. 10,12,14,16,18).

Many people know they are supposed to love their neighbor ... but they DON'T know WHY !!!!

You will never love your neighbor, if you don't FIRST love GOD !

II. God identifies who your neighbor is ...

Luke 10:30-37 ... “The parable of the good neighbor ...”

Jesus' point: Your neighbor is whomever God places in front of you, who has a need you can meet!!

The application of this truth is crucial to our understanding of what God commands us to DO for our neighbor.

God is speaking here not to governments, but to HIS people ... to those who know that HE is Lord.

Because of technology and travel today, God may make you a “neighbor” to someone in another country.

III. God tells you HOW to love your neighbor ...

Matthew 7:12: “Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them.”

You know that there is JOY in the Lord ... a joy that everyone needs!

Leviticus 19:17 ... Loving your neighbor requires that you understand their greatest need: their spiritual need.

Ezekiel 33:1-6: “If the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are warned ... his blood I will require at the watchman's hand” (vs. 6).

We who believe in Jesus Christ are called to share the Gospel ! We are ambassadors of God's kingdom (II Cor. 5:20).

Luke 4:18-19: “ ... good news to the poor ... liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind ...”

Do you feel the pain of spiritual bondage and death that lies over all who do not know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?

IV. God empowers you to love your neighbor ...

The desire and ability to truly love your neighbor as yourself must flow from your love for God!

