

Possible Action Steps

1. Continue talking to God, asking Him to help you love Him, and directing you in how to love others.
2. If you are carrying sin before God, confess it and repent from it.
3. If you are carrying resentment or unforgiveness with someone else if possible seek to be reconciled. If not, forgive them and entrust them to God.
4. Make time with God a priority. If that's new, start by reading a psalm each morning and praying.
5. Find ways to give your life more margin, the room in your schedule to spend time with others. Get to know your neighbors. Visit family.
6. Find opportunities to engage with and love non Christians in real relationships with no other agenda but to demonstrate the love of Christ that has filled your life.

Remember, **the mission of God starts in me as I love God with all that I am, this is expressed, in large part, by how I love and care for my neighbor.**

 Missions Emphasis 2020
ON MISSION
LOVE GOD | LOVE OTHERS | SEEK HIS KINGDOM

“I HAVE to LOVE him, but I don’t have to LIKE him.”



- What do we mean when we say such things?
- How do we feel about said person?
- What do we think Biblical love really is?

Do you hold any unforgiveness or resentment, misunderstanding, failure to meet expectations in your heart towards anyone in your life right now? It's a misstep this morning if we start talking about loving a stranger down the street but you haven't first figured out how to love the neighbors you know or the family members you do life with. ***Deal first with those God has already placed in your life so that you are ready and able to receive others whom God will bring into your life who need to know and experience His love through you.***

The mission of God starts _____ me as I love God with all that I am, but this is expressed, in large part, by how I love and care for my neighbor.

Look again at Matthew 22:36-40.

We are not commanded to love only God, but to love our neighbor. And not only to love our neighbor but to love them as we love ourselves. The two commands are wrapped up, joined as one response from Jesus by which he says these are the most important.

Week Two // On Mission: Across the Street

The fact that we say things like “I love him, I don’t have to like him” is an indication we haven’t yet fully grasped what it means to love as Jesus would have us to love.

1. What’s _____ got to do with it?

John 15:12-14 | 1 John 4:7-11,19-21

A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, 3rd ed.

- 1.) to have a warm regard for and interest in another, cherish, have affection for, love,
- 2.) to have high esteem for or satisfaction with, take pleasure in,
- 3.) to practice/express love, to prove one’s love
- 4.) to demonstrate or show one’s love

Greek lexicons aside, if we want to understand what love is we need not look any further than the life of Jesus. We love Jesus because he first loved us. He came to the earth, lived among us, died to take on the penalty of our sin, though he himself had no sin. We love to love Jesus because of his great love for us. And he calls us to also love in this way.



JOHN 15:12-14 | 1 JOHN 4:7-11, 19-21

Go back this week, read and meditate on these passages. How connected is God’s love for us and our love for others? If we fail to love, what does this say about our love for God? **Remember this is an active love, not just an idea or feeling, but a verb we do.**

2. Who exactly is my _____ ?

Leviticus 19:17-18 | Leviticus 19:33-34 | Matthew 5:43-46

If we are asking this question, please don’t ask it to find those you don’t have to love. If we are, we’re missing the point.

Leviticus 19 – your neighbor includes those who have wronged you and those who are not your people.

Matthew 5 – Jesus includes our enemies with our neighbors.

Week Two // On Mission: Across the Street

This is what God is like. Loving in this way will prove you are children of your Father when you live your life reflecting who He is.

3. Why are we, “ourselves,” the _____ for loving others?

You know if Moses or Jesus would have just left it to “Love your neighbor” then maybe we could have some freedom in how we define or demonstrate such love to others. But it’s not left to that, a gauge is given for us to measure and monitor how we are to love.

How much time, energy, money, thought processing goes into the things that concern us? Our family? Our homes? Our future? Our career? Our health? Breakfast, lunch, and dinner? Our welfare? How much of our life is consumed with focusing on us? All of it?

God gave this command to love others as we love ourselves to keep us from living self-centered, self-consuming lives. God is not calling us to neglect ourselves, our families, or the things he’s given us to do. But he certainly is reminding us that we are called to more than just caring for ourselves.

And the foundational reason for all of this is because this is the nature of God. This is who He is. If you look back at the two passages in Leviticus 19 they both end with “I am the Lord.” In this God is saying, do this because this is what I do.

When Jesus tells you to love your neighbor as yourself, He is describing for us, the way He loves. His love is not dependent on you. His love is not dependent on your good behavior or morality. His love for you is not dependent on where you were born, your skin color, your gender, your social status, or what you can do for Him. His love is dependent on Himself. He loves you because He is love. It is His nature. And so he calls us today to love in that same way.