



LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

How to love even when it's difficult

³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” **Matthew 22:36-40**

➤ WHY SHOULD I LOVE MY NEIGHBOR?

1. I love because _____

³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ **Matthew 22:38-39**

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. **Romans 13:8-10**

2. I love because it _____

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. **1 Peter 4:8**

Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity, and honor. **Proverbs 21:21**

3. I love because I _____

We love because he first loved us **1 John 4:19**

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. **John 15:12-13**

- **Why it’s Difficult? Sometimes I** _____
- **The Choice: I Choose to** _____

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? **Jeremiah 17:9**

➤ WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

1. The Ones Who _____

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. **Luke 10:33**

2. The Ones Who _____

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. **Luke 6:32-33**

- **Why it’s Difficult? Sometimes People Don’t** “_____”
- **My Choice: I Choose to** _____

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. ⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. **Isaiah 55:8-9**

➤ HOW SHOULD I LOVE MY NEIGHBOR

1. I Choose _____ My Neighbor

¹¹ Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. ¹² There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor? **James 4:11-12**

2. I Choose _____ My Neighbor

¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. **1 John 4:17-18**

3. I Choose _____ My Neighbor

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. **1 John 3:16**

- **Why it’s Difficult? What if they** _____?
- **My Choice: I Choose to** _____

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. **Matthew 5:43-48**