

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Texts: 1 Cor. 13: 4-8 & Luke 10: 25-37

We live in a generation that is called the “*I, ME and MYSELF generation*” where everything evolves around one’s self.

We live in a time described in Paul’s 2nd letter to Timothy as “*terrible, difficult and dangerous times...*”

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But understand this: In the last days terrible times will come. For men will be lovers of themselves, ... lovers of money, ... without love of good, ... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. Turn away from such as these!

Because of the outside influence and the times we live in, our mammoth task is to learn to live the Agape kind of love..

We need to understand that God’s love always starts and flows from our love to God then to others then to self.

A. WHY DO I NEED TO LOVE MY NEIGHBOUR?

- **God created them in His image.**
Gen. 1:27 - So God created mankind in his own image...
- **Jesus died for every individual.**
Rom. 5:8 - God demonstrated His love in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- **Loving others is our greatest witness to this world.**
John 13: 34-35 - A new commandment I give you: Love one another... By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love another.
- **Loving others is the fulfilment of the entire law.**
Galatians 5:14 - The entire law is fulfilled in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."
- **God is love.**
1 Jn. 4:8 - Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

B. WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

Read Luke 10: 25-37. The story of the Good Samaritan

Jews knew the command *to love the Lord God with all... and to love their neighbours as themselves* (**Deut. 6:9**; **Lev. 19:18**).

Yet their interpretation of loving their neighbour was limited to only those who were of similar background.

Jesus used the parable to challenge the prevailing mindset and attitude of the day.

The ongoing and greatest lesson we have to learn in this life is to learn how to love God and those whom God says we need to love.

God wants us to love everyone especially those who are different from us.

C. HOW DO I LOVE MY NEIGHBOUR?

How does Agape love look like?

This is described in 1 Cor. 13:4-8...

Love is patient... kind... does not envy... does not boast... not proud. It does not dishonour others... not self-seeking... not easily angered... keeps no record of wrongs... does not delight in evil. but rejoices with the truth... always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

While the world is becoming loveless, we as God's people need to master how to love everyone especially, those who are different from us.

How do I love my neighbour?

Looking on the story of the Good Samaritan...

a. Love others intentionally.

When the Samaritan saw the the injured man, he (intentionally) went to him.

He stopped when he saw the man and helped him out.

Jesus is teaching us to be aware of those who are around us and to be intentional in meeting their needs.

b. Love others compassionately.

When the Samaritan saw the injured man, he had compassion on him.

The word "compassion" comes from the Latin word "*compati*" which literally means "**to suffer with or to suffer together**".

It means another's suffering becomes our suffering.

c. Love others sacrificially.

Read Luke 10: 34-35

He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine... (Read Luke 10: 34-35)

The Samaritan put aside his personal agenda and he sacrificed everything he's got - his time, his garment, his oil, and his wine.

Loving sacrificially is helping and serving others without expecting something in return.

JESUS OUR GREAT EXAMPLE.

- ***Jesus loves people intentionally.***

Rom. 5:8 - ... while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

He intentionally laid down His life for us all.

- ***Jesus loves people compassionately.***

Matt. 9:36, "When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them..."

Out of His great love, Jesus suffered not only with us but also for us.

- ***Jesus loves people sacrificially.***

Jesus Christ came to become the final and complete **sacrifice** for our sins.

It is God's call to judge but it is our call to love everyone even those who are different from us.