

Love your neighbour as your self

Jesus answered, **“The first and most important one is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul (life), and with all your mind (thought, understanding), and with all your strength.’**

This is the second: **‘You shall [unselfishly] [a]love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”** Mark 12:29-31 AMP

Love, this simple work is one the most abused word in the society. For the godly, love means Godliness, but for the ungodly, the corrupt, it means more of carnal pleasures, even though they might be some measures of morality because of natural human conscience.

Nobody can truly love another human being if he does not love the Lord as seen in the first commandment. The reason Jesus had to add the second was to complement the first. No one can really prove his/her love for God except he by loving another man, because God is Spirit, and man is flesh; he can be seen. If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates (works against) his [Christian] brother he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.” 1 John 4:20 AMP.

As a Christian teenager, the only way you can prove your love for God is to show it to the people you have around you every day.

“Be under obligation to no one—the only obligation you have is to love one another. Whoever does this has obeyed the Law. The commandments, Do not commit adultery; do not commit murder; do not steal; do not desire what belongs to someone else”—all these, and any others besides, are summed up in the one command, “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” If you love others, you will never do them wrong; to love, then, is to obey the whole Law. You must do this, because you know that the time has come for you to wake up from your sleep. For the moment when we will be saved is closer now than it was when we first believed.” Rom. 13:8-11 GNT.

The faith we have in God is hinged upon the love he expressed to us through the life and death of Jesus (Romans 8:32). God loved the world so much that he gave his only son away, as payment for the debt of sin, so as to forgive humanity forever. The call to be a Christian is a call to an unconditional lover like God—the Father, who loved us even though we were sinners.

Love your neighbour

“...‘You shall [unselfishly] [a]love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

My dear teenager, you are called to love your neighbour. But who can we say is a neighbour? Your neighbour can be anyone in need of your service, your attention, your response, and anyone who needs something that you have, a help you’ve been empowered to deliver. Your neighbour is any individual be it a church goer or a non- church goer who shows his needfulness of something, who is weaker than you

in any at all. Your neighbour is the one whom you can good too. Jesus was anointed by God and he went about doing good Acts 10:38. Anyone who is open to receive of your fruit of goodness is your neighbour. To every neighbour, you can truly show God's love by feeding them with the fruits which the Holy Spirit bears in you: But the fruit that the Spirit produces in a person's life is *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*. There is no law against these kinds of things. Gal. 5:22-23 ERV. You cannot over produce any of these fruits because the producer is God himself. As often as deny your own natural self in very matter, the fruits will manifest abundantly. Allow these fruits to go ahead of you into every relationship you keep. Let them go ahead of every response you lay before anybody.

In fact Paul confessed, saying: "I may be able to speak the languages of human beings and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell. I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains—but if I have no love, I am nothing. I may give away everything I have, and even give up my body to be burned—but if I have no love, this does me no good."

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.

Love is eternal. There are inspired messages, but they are temporary; there are gifts of speaking in strange tongues, but they will cease; there is knowledge, but it will pass. For our gifts of knowledge and of inspired messages are only partial; but when what is perfect comes, then what is partial will disappear. 2 Cor. 13:1-11 GNT.

Who can be my neighbour?

Everyone in need, whom you can reason with is your neighbour. Every human being has a unique weakness that makes him depend on another human for support. Just as you are someone's neighbour so also are others yours too. Your neighbour includes: your family member, your friends in school, you colleagues wherever, fellow Christians and non-Christians; the one who wrongs/offends you; the person who makes you smile or angry, those who do not like you for one reason or the other, and would not even give you an applause for the good you do; anyone who rejoices at you, when something evil happens to you; anyone who asks or begs you for food or some other thing(s) they need; whosoever needs you for one thing or the other is your neighbour. Let love constrain you. Do what will make a person or a people glad.

The golden principle states that "So then, in everything treat others the same way you want them to treat you, for this is [the essence of] the Law and the [writings of the] Prophets." Matt. 7:12 AMP.