

V. DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS?

Describe the six people who live nearest to you:

Name / Religion	Religious Conversation?	Shared Gospel?	Type of Relationship
John Smith: mildly Roman Catholic	Yes	No	A
1)			
2)			
3)			
4)			
5)			
6)			

N = Not Known; A = Acquaintance; F = Friend; C = Contentious

What would your *neighbors* say is the biggest problem facing your neighborhood?

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Core Seminars – Neighboring
Week 1



How Should Christians Love Their Neighbors?

Six weeks to think about loving your neighbor

I. INTRODUCTION

Your name, your neighborhood, how long you’ve lived there

Two goals for this class:

1. Christian vision for being a good neighbor. Much of this class is not “ought” but “might.”
2. Understand complexity of what it means to love your neighbor.

II. WHY SHOULD I LOVE MY NEIGHBOR?

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.” – Luke 10:29-37

Reference to Leviticus 19:18

This parable must first be ethical catastrophe before it can be ethical guidance.

“The law orders, that we, after attempting to do what is ordered, and so feeling our weakness under the law, may learn to implore the help of grace.” - Augustine

III. HOW SHOULD I LOVE MY NEIGHBOR?

The best way we love our neighbor would be to give them the gospel of Jesus.

Two dangers to avoid:

- 1) Not sharing the gospel with our neighbors.
- 2) Reducing “love your neighbor” to evangelism only.

IV. ULTERIOR MOTIVES VERSUS ULTIMATE MOTIVES

Evangelism as ulterior motive: you’re only getting to know your neighbors so you can share the gospel with them.
(Laudable but short-sighted)

Evangelism as ultimate motive: ultimately, your hope is for your neighbors to find Jesus. But there are many ways short of that you can love them which are valuable in their own right.