

VI. CONCLUSION: JEREMIAH 29:7

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

NOT (stripped from Biblical context): our ultimate hope is the temporal welfare of this city.

BUT (in Biblical context): while we are here, we are eager to do what is good (Titus 2:14).

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Core Seminars – Neighboring Week 3



Loving Your Neighbor and Your Neighborhood

I. INTRODUCTION

Today's class: not a rule book but a menu.

II. NEIGHBOR AND NEIGHBORHOOD

We can display the glory of God *both* as we love both at the level of the individual and as we work for a better society.

- Addressing individual challenges
- Addressing structural challenges.

The tragedy of the commons / free-ridership problem.

III. BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS WITH NEIGHBORS

Seven ideas for building friendships with the ultimate hope of seeing them respond to the gospel.

1. Introduce Jesus early on.
2. Know their stories.
3. Live at peace.
4. Do good things.
5. Give them time.
6. Invest in margin.
7. Receive their love.

IV. BUILDING NEIGHBORHOODS

The value of addressing structural problems at the level of a *neighborhood*.

Who: Christians. Why Christians are well-suited to investing in the neighborhood.

How: Four pieces of advice:

1. Submit to authority (1 Peter 2:13).
2. Love your neighbor.
3. Be humble.
 - Very often there is no “Christian” answer to these challenges.
 - Do not let your eagerness to do good lead to division in the body of Christ.
4. Put your hope in heaven.

What: the issues that affect those your neighbor.

The value of diversity in the local church