

## The Central Love Command Loving Others

**Matt 22:34-40 (NLT)** <sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. <sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

**Loving our Neighbor means ...**

**First: Loving our neighbor means treating them fairly, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to their position or status.**

**Leviticus 19:15 NLT** "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

**1 Samuel 16:7 NIV** But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

**Second: Loving our neighbor means treating them \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Psalm 101:5a NLT** I will not tolerate people who slander their neighbors.

**When we slander and gossip we are showing \_\_\_\_\_ to our neighbors!**

**Third: Loving our neighbor means \_\_\_\_\_ them through the use of spiritual gifts**

**1Cor 12:7** "Each person is given something to do that shows who God is; Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits."

**We are called to love our neighbor...**

**First: as a \_\_\_\_\_ to unbelievers.**

**Romans 15:2 NIV** Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

**1 Peter 3:4, NLT** "You should be known for the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God."

**Second: as a way to \_\_\_\_\_ us to become like Jesus.**

**Romans 8:28-29 NLT** And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. <sup>29</sup> For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn, with many brothers and sisters.

**In what ways are we to be like Christ? ...**

**a. Jesus came to \_\_\_\_\_ not to be served.**

**Matthew 20:25-28 NIV** Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- <sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

**b. to carry out \_\_\_\_\_ plans and purposes.**

**John 6:38 NIV** For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

**Third: as a way to build \_\_\_\_\_ within the Church.**

**Romans 12:4-5 NIV** Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

**Titus 3:10 NLT** Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him.

**God is quite serious about how the matter of \_\_\_\_\_!**

**Listening to \_\_\_\_\_ is just as bad as spreading \_\_\_\_\_.**