

Neighbor[ing]

Love where you live.

Part 5: The Art of Neighboring

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The Hard Question:

Do I take Jesus seriously?

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." - Mark 12:28-31

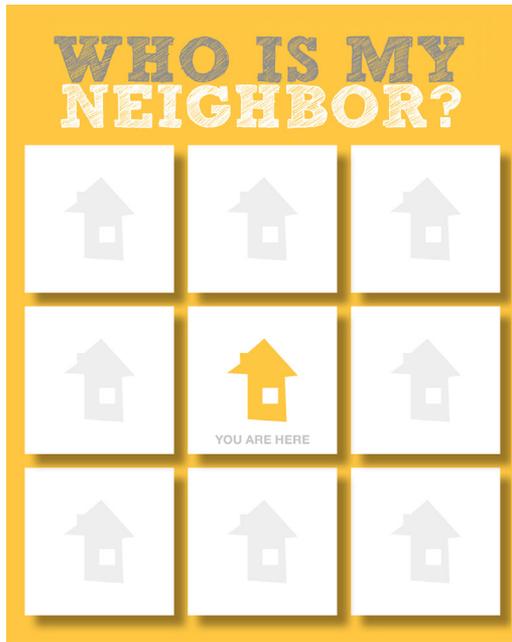
Another Question:

Did God place me geographically on purpose?

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. - Acts 17:26-27

Neighboring Homework from January

- 1) Pay attention
- 2) Pray for your heart to change; "Until we see our neighbors as Jesus sees them, we will never love our neighbors as Jesus loves them."
- 3) Make the right decision:
Serious or Sidestep, Excuse or Engage, Good or God, Ulterior or Ultimate
- 4) Learn their names



New Neighboring Homework

5) Love “in the most excellent way”

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. – 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Need a little more help with loving your neighbor?

Look for the fingerprints.

Next Steps: Do the homework!

Small Group Questions

- 1) Do you have a fun neighboring story? Share!
- 2) How have you taken Jesus seriously since January? What are the tangible steps you have taken to know your neighbors?
- 3) Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. How does this scripture instruct you in terms of neighboring? Where is the Holy Spirit bringing conviction right now?
- 4) Is there a connection between loving God and loving our neighbors? Is one an extension of the other? What do you think?
- 5) Who is better at neighboring — you or your neighbors? Be honest! Is there something you could learn from them?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout this week?