



Benevolentia: Deepening Compassion

May 10th, 2015

GREEN WITH WHAT?

ENVY: THE PATHWAY FROM PRIDE TO HATRED

Most people are motivated to success because they envy their neighbors. But this, too, is meaningless—like chasing the wind. – Ecclesiastes 4:4 (NLT)

For [Pilate] perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered [Jesus] up [to be crucified]. – Mark 15:10 (ESV)

COMPASSION & CHRIST-LIKE “NEIGHBORING”

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?” ²⁷The man answered, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” – Luke 10:25-27 (NLT)

Christ-like Neighboring is...

1. HUMANLY IMPOSSIBLE

“Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!” ²⁹The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. ³¹By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. ³²A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.” – Luke 10:28-32 (NLT)

2. UNLIMITED IN NATURE

“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. ³⁴Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’” – Luke 10:33-35 (NLT)

WHAT CHRIST-LIKE NEIGHBORING LOOKS LIKE FOR ME...

- i. I Risk My Life
- ii. I Change My Schedule
- iii. I Give My All
- iv. I Go The Distance

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ – Galatians 6:2 (ESV)

3. MORE THAN MORALISM

“Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.” – Luke 10:36-37 (NLT)

CHRIST-LIKE NEIGHBORING HAPPENS WHEN I...

- i. Re-Neighbor Myself
- ii. Re-Integrate The Gospel of Christ with the Ministry of Christ
- iii. Reach Across Racial / Cultural / Ethnic Divides

I Will Change My Direction Today by...

- Memorizing **Galatians 6:2**
- Repenting of envy, discontentment, gossip, and possessiveness.
- Embracing the neighbor-love of Christ for others.
- Reaching across the racial, cultural, and ethnic divides and ministering to real human need.

WALK THE TALK

A Growth Group Guide

1. What do you avoid after dark? Have you ever helped a stranger? What happened?
2. Who would you nominate for the Good Samaritan Award in your church or community?
3. Why do we need to cast the hero of being a good neighbor in the image of our enemies to truly learn the value of being a good neighbor ourselves?
4. Under the sub-heading in the outline above, What Christ-like Neighboring Looks Like For Me, which of the four got your attention the most? Why?
5. Why is compassion a deeper form of mercy than mercy itself, based on the answer the lawyer gave to Jesus?
6. How can you “re-neighbor” yourself this week (how will you move beyond the comfort zone and take the risk to help a person in real need)?