

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR? Practical Faith – Part 5

“Don't fall into self-deception by merely listening to God's Word and thinking you've got it. Do what it says! Be a doer of the Word!” James 1:22

“Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone.” James 2:14

“This royal law is found in the Scriptures: Love your neighbor as you love yourself! If you obey this law, you are doing right!” James 2:8

“28b A man asked Jesus, ‘Of all the commandments of God, which is the most important?’ 29 ‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second commandment is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these!” Mark 12:28-31

“Put on love...” Colossians 3:14

“...Be doers of the word, not hearers only.” James 1:22

“Let us not love with words, but with actions!” 1 John 3:18

HOW CAN I LOVE MY NEIGHBORS?

1. Get to know my neighbors **INDIVIDUALLY**.

“To have friends, a man must show himself friendly.” Proverbs 18:24

“Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people.” Romans 12:16

“Each of you will invite your neighbor to come enjoy peace and security, in the shade of your vineyards and trees.” Zechariah 3:10

“The neighbors went out of their way to be friendly to us. It was cold and raining so they built a fire and made us all feel welcome.” Acts 28:2

2. **ENCOURAGE** my neighbors continually.

“Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up.” Proverbs 12:25

“Everything written in the Scriptures was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of Scriptures we might have hope.” Romans 15:4

3. **SERVE** my neighbors cheerfully.

“Each of you has been blessed by God with many wonderful gifts to be used to serve those around you. So, use your gifts well in serving others.” 1 Peter 4:10

“Serve the Lord cheerfully.” Psalm 100:2

“If we have what we need, and we see other people in need, but we turn a cold shoulder and do nothing about it, then the love of God is not in us!” 1 John 3:17

4. **INVITE** my neighbors to watch Springbrook online or come in person.

“Then the Master said, ‘I want you to go out to everywhere people are -- to the highways and to the hedges -- and urge anyone you can find to come into my house, so that my house will be full!’” Luke 14:23

5. **SHARE** Christ with my neighbors personally

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15

“For Christ's love compels us...” 2 Corinthians 5:14

“19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

“I have chosen you and appointed you that you should go and bring forth much fruit and that your fruit should remain.” John 15:16

“I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18

CONVICTION #1: Helping our neighbors take **STEPS** towards faith in Christ is the core mission of the church.

“I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent.” Luke 15:7

“Jesus looked at His disciples, and He said, ‘Follow Me and I’m going to make you fishers of men.’” Matthew 4:19

“Who appointed me a judge or arbiter between you?” Luke 12:14

CONVICTION #2: **INFLUENCE** with our neighbors only comes through death to selfishness and **APATHY** in the heart of each Christ Follower.

“24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But it’s death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. 25 Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. 26 Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me...” John 12:24-26

“24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross and follow me. 25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.’” Matthew 16:24-25