



love where you live

Love Where You Live Part 1 - Love Your Neighbor

Sept 26 & 27 | Speaker: Rajendra Pillai, Senior Pastor

KEY SCRIPTURE: Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:27-30)

OVERVIEW: Here’s what Jesus said matters most: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart...and love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-40). Truth is, loving our neighbors can seem like messy, unpredictable, time consuming and hard work. But what if Jesus really meant what He said? What if loving our neighbors is exactly what Jesus is calling us to do now? What if loving our neighbors in this season of pandemic, uncertainty, and divisiveness unleashed a wave of love, joy and peace in our hearts and our region? Maybe, for the very first time, we might even experience this deep abiding sense that we are actually doing what God has called you to do in our neighborhoods? And we will do it with hundreds of other singles and families all across our region.

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE:

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind.’
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And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’
All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

~ Matthew 22:37-40

“Why do so much education and training, management consulting, and business research and so many books and articles produce so little change in what managers and organizations actually do?”

~ Jeffrey Pfeffer, The Knowing-Doing Gap

The Knowing-Doing Gap. You have the information and the knowledge, but there is a gap between your knowing and your doing. You know what to do, you just don't actually do it.

This isn't just a widespread problem in the business world. It is also a significant issue in our own lives and in our churches. It is possible to gather a lot of information and knowledge about God, about Jesus, about the Bible, about the church even, *but not actually put it into practice.*

Jesus was extremely aware of this knowing-doing gap. One time, he said it quite bluntly:

“So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say?”

~ Luke 6:46

... love your neighbor as yourself...

~ Leviticus 19:18

The entire Scripture builds on this premise of Leviticus 19:18, it speaks of love as something we participate in, it speaks of love as a dominant characteristic of the community of God's people. It permeates their words, their thinking, their attitudes, their actions reflecting what is true in the community of our Trinitarian God.

Love God. Love people. It's that simple. And it's that hard.

“They do not keep for themselves the goods entrusted to them. They do not covet what belongs to others. They show love to their neighbors. ...They speak gently to those who oppress them, and in this way they make them their friends. It has become their passion to do good to their enemies. ... If anyone among them is poor or comes into want while they themselves have nothing to spare, they fast two or three days for him. In this way they can supply any poor man with the food he needs. This, O Emperor, is the rule of life of the Christians, and this is their manner of life.”

– Aristides 137 AD

Over the next couple of months, we are asking everyone in the DRCC community to do three things:

1. Get to know the names of your neighbors
2. Get to know the stories of your neighbors
3. Pray for your neighbors

Check out www.damascus.com/neighbor

It has a wealth of resources we will be talking about over the next couple of months and beyond.

I believe Jesus really meant what He said.

I believe loving our neighbors is exactly what Jesus is calling us to do now.

And I believe loving our neighbors in this season of pandemic, uncertainty, and divisiveness will unleash a wave of love, joy and peace in our region.

Maybe, for the very first time, we might even experience this deep abiding sense that we are actually doing what God has called us to do in our neighborhoods. And we will do it with hundreds of other singles and families all across our region. We are launching into one of the greatest adventures this year by taking Jesus at His word and actually doing it. Make sure you share your stories in the share box at www.damascus.com/neighbor so we can encourage one another. I truly believe it will be one of the most life-giving experiences we will have in this season.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

(for personal and small group discussion)

- What was most impactful to you from this weekend's service?
- Read Matthew 22:35-40.
- What stands out to you in this passage?
- Jesus summed up the law in the passage above. How would you say you are doing in loving God with all your heart and loving your neighbor as yourself?
- Do you think we have a problem with the knowing-doing gap in our personal lives and in churches?
- In the weeks ahead, what are some ways you can pray for your neighbors, get to know their names and their stories?
- Check out Damascus.com/neighbor and select the things you can do to better equip yourself to love your neighbors.
- Make sure you share stories with others in the church community by posting them in the Share Your Story section.

