

EXPANDING THE CIRCLE OF MORE

Answering the Ache for Life to be More

Humanity

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"
"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

GENESIS 4:9

"If anyone takes the life of a human being, he must be put to death."
LEVITICUS 24:17

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."

MATTHEW 5:21-22

Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?"
LUKE 6:9

"Do to others as you would have them do to you."

LUKE 6:31

"Do not oppress an alien; you yourselves know how it feels to be aliens, because you were aliens in Egypt."

EXODUS 23:9

And the word of the LORD came again to Zechariah:
"This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.'"

ZECHARIAH 7:8-10

"Humanity"

We limit and lessen who we are and what our life can mean by the circle we draw, or let others draw, around our lives. The "more" that we are made for – the more that we ache for – cannot be satisfied by expanding the circle of things, experiences or even moments in our life. But drawing a larger circle of concern, identification and participation of our lives in the world will result in an expanded life of more. We must extend the circle of how we see ourselves and how we see others – our common humanity – as a critical step toward an expanded life. We are created and redeemed for wider connection, for life-giving involvement and identification with others. Biblically, from creation forward, we are called to see ourselves in the shared humanity of others and redraw the circle of our lives to include more, knowing that the common bonds of our humanity are built with a certain:

1. sacredness

2. sameness

3. shared reality