

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself
(Leviticus 19:18)

Introduction:

1. In our lesson we are concentrating on the words found in Leviticus 19:18b -- "*Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*"
2. As we study this commandment, we are considering:
 - a. its importance
 - b. its interpretation
 - c. an illustration that relates to it.
3. Let us begin by considering . . .

Discussion:

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS COMMANDMENT

- A. (Matthew 22:35-40) Jesus revealed the 2 great commandments in the law.
 1. (vs.39) He identified the commandment we are studying as the 2nd great commandment of all.
 2. (vs.40) It was 1 of the 2 commandments upon which all the law and prophets hung.
 - a. The 1st commandment summed up all the responsibilities that the Jews had toward God.
 - b. The 2nd commandment summed up all the responsibilities that the Jews had toward their neighbors (Leviticus 19:13, 14, 15, 16, 17).
- B. The New Testament also reveals how important this commandment is to Christians (Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:13-15; James 2:8).
- C. Since this commandment is so important we must understand it.
- D. To help us understand it, let us consider . . .

II. THE INTERPRETATION OF THIS COMMANDMENT

- A. (Matthew 5:43-48) Jesus dealt with a misinterpretation of this commandment.
 1. A misinterpretation is revealed in vs.43.
 2. Jesus taught His will in vs.44-48.
- B. Jesus gave a practical explanation of this commandment in Matthew 7:12.
- C. Let us turn our attention to . . .

III. AN ILLUSTRATION THAT RELATES TO THIS COMMANDMENT

(Luke 10:25-37)

- A. (vs.25-29) We learn why Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan.
- B. (vs.30) A man needed assistance -- he had been robbed, stripped of his clothing, wounded, and left half dead.
- C. (vs.31-32) 2 men did not love their neighbor.
 1. (vs.31) When a priest saw the man, he "*passed by on the other side.*"
 2. (vs.32) A Levite "*came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.*"
- D. (vs.33-35) A Samaritan did love his neighbor.
 1. (vs.33) The Samaritan loved his neighbor because he had compassion on him.
 2. He demonstrated his love by:
 - a. caring for the man in need (vs.34)
 - b. sacrificing so the man would be taken care of (vs.35).
- E. Jesus applied this parable to the lawyer in vs.36-37.

Conclusion:

1. This morning we showed that the Lord's people are to avoid having respect of persons.
2. By practicing the 2nd commandment, we will overcome and avoid respect of persons.