

## Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

**Scripture reading: Rom 13:8-10**

**Introduction** - What are Christians supposed to do to love our neighbors, **Matt 22:37-39?**

This is agapaō love, it is from the highest moral considerations, without self-interest towards others. This is the love that can love an enemy, **Matt 5:44.**

**I. Love your neighbor as yourself means having their best interest in whatever we do toward them, Matt 5:43-48.**

- A. With our brethren and anyone else, even when they do not love us, **I Peter 3:8-9.**
- B. We must not retaliate with evil, **Matt 5:38-42.**

**II. Love your neighbor as yourself means using our opportunities to assist if we can and be a living example of a Christian.**

- A. Loving neighbors does not mean isolating ourselves from society.
  - 1. We cannot leave the world. But neither are we to have fellowship with the evil in the world, **Eph 5:8-11.**
- B. Loving neighbors does not mean being a religious chameleon.
  - 1. We do not have to compromise our values, morals, or faith in God and Christ, **I Cor 9:19-27.**
- C. When Jesus interacted with sinners, He called them to repentance, **Mark 2:13-17.**
  - 1. In fact, this is what Jesus called true mercy, **Matt 9:11-13.**
- D. Jesus did not conduct himself in any way that caused sinners to think he was ok with (agreed with) their sin.
  - 1. He showed mercy by forgiving and by teaching.
  - 2. He rebuked and condemned the hypocrites, including the Scribes and Pharisees, **Matt 23.**
- E. We need to remember **Gal 4:16** because we do live in the world and will interface with many people over time.
  - 1. Paul was not abrasive or abusive in his words and actions, but he was clear. Loving our neighbor includes speaking truth in love.
  - 2. Loving our neighbor does not mean giving up our convictions.

**III. Love your neighbor as yourself means continuing to love even when you are rejected, Heb 12:1-3.**

**Conclusion** – remember **I Cor 13:13.**