



love where you live

Love Where You Live

Part 2 – Imagine it!

Oct 3 & 4 | Speaker: Richard Fredericks, Founding Pastor

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE:

Stephen Covey's advice: **always begin with the end in mind**. Picture **where** you are going, and who you want to be at the end of the journey.

One of my favorite questions to ask myself and others: "Who do you want to be in five years?"

Jesus' 7-word command: **Love your neighbors as you love yourself**, is His call for us to actively/intentionally practice sacrificial love toward those who live right around us or work right next to us: to LOVE WHERE WE LIVE!

Imagine that! What would our region look like a year from now IF the eight hundred+ homes, apartments or condos of DRCC members and attenders take Jesus' 2nd greatest command seriously?

'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?'

Matthew 22:37-40 [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 hangs on these two."

Jesus says everything in Scripture is hinged like a door on these two commandments.

Mark 12:31

"No other commandment is greater than these two commands!"

Jesus says: Nothing else **God calls us to do** ranks higher than these two imperatives. Everything else **God calls us to do** is defined by them. That is mind-boggling! We need to close the knowing-doing gap!

And they are inseparable: our love for God is made tangible by our active love (actions, not feelings) for our neighbor.

Luke 10:27

“Love the LORD your God with ALL your heart and with ALL your soul and with ALL your strength and with ALL your mind;’ and ‘Love your neighbor as your-self.” “You have answered correctly,”

Jesus replied, “**Do this and you will live.**”

“The man, wanting to justify himself, asked Jesus: ‘**And who is my neighbor?**’”

His self-justifying question launches Jesus into one of His greatest and most beloved stories: the good Samaritan.

Jesus’ hero, his model is this guy from the wrong religion and the wrong neighborhood with the wrong ethnicity—a guy who is everything that would turn off this purity-seeking, stay-separate, religious-expert: but who alone, Jesus says, has the true grace and love of God operational in his life.

Then Jesus looks at this guy who had hoped to get off the hook—and Jesus looks at us, and gives us one more command: “**Go—and do likewise.**” Do this! Live this way with those right around you.

We are NOT to love our neighbors to make them Christians.
We are to love them because we are Christ-followers!

Our job is to care! The Holy Spirit’s job is to convict and convert.
We have three action-step goals to help us create real friendships, over time, without any strained urgency or tense anxiety that I need to change someone. With no pressure for rapid results:

1. Intentionally **learn the names of your immediate neighbors** and their children (strangers start to become friends when we know their names)

2. **Learn the stories of your neighbors.** This is mission-critical.

This requires slowing down, really listening—really caring and focusing; asking good questions, enjoying differences; then being quiet while they share. It does not require ‘being interesting,’ but being interested. It requires time.

3. Create a prayer list with your neighbors on it, and begin **praying regularly for them**, telling God: “I am willing to create space in my life to be a part of Your answers to my prayers for these neighbors (friends).”

Those three goals are simple/huge.

They will change the landscape of our region.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

(for personal and small group discussion)

- ☐ What was most impactful to you from this weekend’s service?
- ☐ Who is the neighbor you are closest to—and why?
- ☐ How well do you know their life-story? Have you ever asked about their life and really spent time listening?
- ☐ www.Damascus.com/neighbor is a tool to encourage and equip your neighboring journey. The webpage (at the bottom) has a discussion board where we can all share our neighboring stories. Check it out!

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