

May 13, 2007

Jeff Mikels

FOCUS: "I Don't Have to Like You"

"LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF ..." — MATTHEW 22:39

WEEK 2

My tooth is dark today because of a man named Joe... (love but not like)

GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE // FOCUS // Relationships

How do you love someone you don't like?

Men and women react differently

How should we love?

5 tools for loving well regardless of personal feelings

Learn EMPATHY (entering another's world).

Read Matthew 22:34-40 (p. 987)

People Matter to God! // The meaning of "As Yourself"

A lesson in "active listening."

Meet NEEDS.

Read Luke 10:25-37

Consider the Samaritan's perspective // the man's need outweighed everything

Your neighbor is anyone within the scope of your
current EXPERIENCE or your potential INFLUENCE.

Your neighbor is your NEAREST potential LOVE TARGET.

Take RISKS.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35

All men will know // As Jesus loved us!

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:16-18

This is called SACRIFICIAL RISK TAKING

Display AFFIRMING AFFECTION.

Greet one another with a holy kiss...

Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26

That communicated affirming affection in their culture. // hugs & handshakes

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.... Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 1:22; 4:8-10

Discuss LOVE LANGUAGES by Gary Chapman

Words of Affirmation, Physical Touch, Quality Time, Acts of Service, Gifts

LIKE THEM.

God made you, God made them // loves // died // more of them!

If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.

1 John 4:20-5:1

Diagnostic test for broken relationships

- Is there anyone who is not welcome in my home?
- Is there anyone whose presence in a Bible study group would hinder my participation?
- Is there anyone I have not forgiven?

Your Next Step

Building a Relationship

- ENTER THEIR WORLD.
- AFFIRM THEM.
- MEET A NEED.
- OFFER A NEED.

Repair a Relationship

- CONFESS & FORGIVE.
- HOPE.
- TAKE RISKS OF TRUST.

But sometimes, a relationship is beyond repair — Give it to God.

Maintain a Relationship

- THERE IS NO "MAINTAIN".

NEXT WEEK: WHATEVER DOESN'T KILL ME MAKES ME STRONGER

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How should we love?

Learn _____ (entering another's world).

Read Matthew 22:34-40 (p. 987)

Meet _____.

Read Luke 10:25-37

*Your neighbor is anyone within the scope of your
current _____ or your potential _____.*

Your neighbor is your _____ potential _____.

Take _____.

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Display _____.

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- _____.
- _____.
- _____.
- _____.

Repair a Relationship

- _____.
- _____.
- _____.

Maintain a Relationship

- _____.

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