

MULTIPLY HOPE BY MEETING NEEDS IN OUR COMMUNITY

*On one occasion, an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" Jesus replied. "How do you read it?" The Lawyer answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."*

Luke 10:25-28 (NIV)

❖ Understanding God's Perspective of "Loving Your Neighbor":

1. Genuine love is from GOD.

*Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

1 John 4:8 (NIV)

2. God allows us the OPPORTUNITY to SHARE LOVE with our neighbors.

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God... This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

1 John 4:7; 9-12 (NIV)

3. The mark of our faith is not how much we KNOW, but how much we LOVE.

*"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."*

Matthew 5:43-45a (NIV)

❖ Recognizing How We are Expected to Love Our Neighbor:

*But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*

Luke 10:29-37 (NIV)

1. Seek UNITY and PEACE among all peoples.

*Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*

Romans 12:16 (NIV)

2. Pursue JUSTICE.

*Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.*

Isaiah 1:17 (NIV)

3. Soberly recognize and MOURN sin's effects.

*Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

James 1:14-15 (NIV)

4. Never give up HOPE doing what is right.

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

❖ Seeing Love from God's Eyes:

1. God loves ALL PEOPLE EQUALLY.

*This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need to be separated from Him; by believing in Him, anyone can have a complete and everlasting life.*

John 3:16 (MSG)

2. God loves DIVERSITY.

*God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.*

Genesis 1:31 (NIV)

3. God loves COMPLETELY and ETERNALLY.

*The Lord said: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."*

Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)

❖ Closing Challenge: Who do I need to lavishly love outside my COMFORT ZONE?

*If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.*

1 John 4:15-17 (NIV)