

Like a Good Neighbor
Spirit Life, Part 10
Slide Notations

Left off; ‘no following, no evidence of following w/o the right kind of love & loving- service, rightly, richly expressed... For members of your family, for enemies, Church, God and for people dying in their love for the world, it’s ways and goods (unsaved and some-saved)... *And it’s by that balanced loving response to their needs “that all men will know that we are His followers!” J13*

Col 3.1-11 If you’re serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ rules. Don’t walk thru life, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that’s where the action is. See things from His perspective. Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. He is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you’ll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. And that means killing off everything connected w/that way of death: sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust, doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it, and grabbing whatever attracts your fancy. That’s a life shaped by things and feelings instead of by God. It’s this kind of behavior by disobedient children that kindles God’s anger. It wasn’t long ago that you were doing all that stuff and not knowing any better. But you know better now, so make sure it’s all gone for good: bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity, dirty talk. And no more lying seeing that you’re done with that old life. It’s like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you’ve stripped off and put in the fire. Now you’re dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom made by the Creator. All the old fashions are now obsolete for “the new man!” *And distinctions like nationalities, religions, cultured or uncouth, socio-economically hi or low, even male and female (G3), mean nothing. There’s a new common denominator now. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, because He is “it” for everyone! And anyone who is in Him, is heir to the promises of God!*

When you talk about Christ-type rightly, richly, lovingly, serving the peoples of the world... You have to talk about three things!

First, removing the “partitions of prejudice!”

Prejudice in the Church! “Most segregated hour in America...” Black and white (and ethnic) Churches? Never once seen a truly black church! Church is supposed to look like area! If we’re talking b&w hope we’re describing a zebra/L.A. cop car/moral distinction... Not talking about God’s people! God only made different shades of brown! Black and White solely the work of man!

Prejudice in the Church! Not denying ethnicity/color intensity! Denying the right to make them “spots!” God didn’t make any colorization mistakes. Colors are beautiful on their own... But they are “master-pieces” together! Spirit Life people don’t get in the way of God’s hand-work! Spirit Life people don’t “blemish” the body by separating colors... or features!

Prejudice in the Church! Not denying ethnicity/ancestry! Denying the right to divide over them... Prejudices hide in our “cultures...” Not so much “against them” as “for us!” Little Italy/Chinatown/Barrio/Hood? All centers of prejudice/fear/protection. “What’s your nationality?” Not Italian-American... African-Mexican-Asian American? MODERN MAN ALL CAME FROM ONE BLOOD!
Gen 9.19 A17.26 1P3.20

Prejudice in the Church! Not denying ethnicity/speciality! Denying the right to false Eminence...

Beyond nationality/ancestry/color. Before I lay claim to being a middle brown American of Italian ancestors... I must acknowledge perm-over-temp. ABOVE ALL, WE ARE WHAT WE ARE MOST... NEW CREATIONS IN CHRIST!

Our identity in Him overarches all other cultural/colorized connections/distinctions!

Col 3 If you're serious about this new life with Christ, pursue it. Eyes up – to get His perspective. Real life on. Old life off. Clothing of the self designed life; trashed and hauled off for good! God Design's is all you wear, all you want! All the old distinctions – nothing! New definitions; in or out of Christ – everything!

Col 3 personalized: I'm serious about my new life in Christ and I am running after Him. Eyes opened, I look for His perspective. This is real life for me now, the old life didn't work and it's off. Self rule, self sufficiency, self love; thrown out and hauled off! God's ways are all I want! All the old stereotypes, labels, and prejudices, gone! In or out of Christ – is all I have to know about people – to know what I need to do, how I need to relate...

Second, you have to ask: who do I rightly, richly, lovingly, serve?

Luke 10.25-30 A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Master, what can I do to truly live?' Jesus replied, 'how do you interpret the law? What does it say?' Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind, and, your neighbor as yourself! Jesus said, 'good answer... do that, and you'll live!' But unsatisfied and wanting to be innocent under the law he asked, "who is my neighbor?" And Jesus told him a story...

Asides... Rarely do we deal with the lawyer... Or Q: what must I do to have eternal life? Law: eternal life merit of good works. Summary/Law? 'Love God/neighbor.' Preaching law awakens sense of sin **R7** "Wanting to be justified/innocent..."

Jesus uses his dissatisfaction to tell story/convicts "self righteous" of sin... Delivers gospel msg/ law elevated by love!

Luke 10.30-37 Some one, coming down from Jerusalem to Jericho, is walking alone on the "Way of Blood." The haunt of thieves, they assault him and strip him of everything, beat him senseless and leave him there, half dead, to die. By concurrence, a priest, and a Levite find and avoid him; a hated Samaritan sees him and is moved with compassion to help him, going above and beyond the call of duty to do so!

Like a Good Neighbor! Moved from within... **v33** Touched him... **v34** Used his own resources to help him... **v34** Carried him... **v34** Secured him... **v34** Provided for him... **v35** He had mercy on him! **v37** **But doesn't answer 'who's my neighbor?'**

Q: Who do I rightly, richly, lovingly serve to feel like I am doing what I was called to do, and to feel satisfied and justified?

A: Reckless, self-possessed, unaware (man traveling the way of blood alone)! Fallen among 'thieves': stalked/captured! Stripped: naked/exposed! Wounded: pained/hyper-sensitized! Half dead: not alive/not free! Ignored: offal/nothing to add! The person who has need!

The Road is full of needy, hurting, confused people! The harvest is ripe! The way is open for all who want to rightly, richly, lovingly serve the people God so loves!

Third, you have to ask: what kind of person rightly, richly, lovingly serves people in need without prejudice?

The kind who moves from self-justification to self-examination! The question is no longer 'who is my neighbor' but 'am I a good neighbor?' The kind who knows the One who, in time of our great need, became the Good Neighbor to us on our Bloody Road!

1Timothy 1.15,16 Here's a word you can take to heart and depend on: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. I'm proof of someone who could never have made it apart from sheer mercy. And now He shows me off as evidence of His endless patience to those who are right on the edge of trusting Him forever.

2Corinthians 5.13-21 We serve in all conditions of life, compelled by Christ's love. If One man died for everyone, that puts us all in the same boat - dead! He included everyone in His death so that everyone could also be included in His life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own. Because of what He did we no longer look at people from the outside we check to see if they're new creatures in Him! The old life is gone; a new life is here! And it all comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and Him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with Himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what He is doing. We're Christ's representatives... And God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; He's already a friend with you. How? you say. In Christ. God put on Him the wrong who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God.