

Part 1- What Matters Most

If you were like me: [born in the late 60's or early 70's]

- You grew up knowing most of your neighbors;
- You probably played with a lot of the kids in your neighborhood;
- You probably feel like you know more people then and have better relationships with them.

But through the different moves you have made, moving to a new home in a new place you find yourself less connected with your neighbors nowadays.

Your perspective about privacy and social interaction is also shaped by the following reminders:

- Don't talk to **strangers** [if you don't take the time to know them, they will remain strangers]
- Keep your **head down** [if you are not looking up, you will never notice your neighbors and that could lead to apathy]
- People like **privacy** [there are also people who are longing for authentic connections]
- Mind your **own business** [God wants us to be involved in His business and that involves our neighbors]

But we will have to re-examine what our perspective on privacy, security and being a neighbor if we truly want to live a life that is pleasing to God.

1. ***God invites us to move from what is comfortable for us to what is uncomfortable.***

Many people don't like to hear a dangerous message because they move people to uncomfortable places a lot of time.

2. The question to ask during this series is **how can we move closer to the 2 things God wants us to do- Love God and Love our neighbor?**
 - a. Matthew 22 (613 laws, which one is the greatest?) same as Mark 12:28-31 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[a] 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all

your strength.’[b] 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’[c] There is no commandment greater than these.

b. James 2:8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.

c. Shema-

- i. Deuteronomy 6:4-9- 4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[a] 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.
- ii. Deuteronomy 6:13-21- 13 So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul— 14 then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil. 15 I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied. 16 Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. 17 Then the Lord’s anger will burn against you, and he will shut up the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the Lord is giving you. 18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 20 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, 21 so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.
- iii. Numbers 15:37-41- 37 The Lord said to Moses, 38 “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. 39 You will have these tassels to look at

and so you will remember all the commands of the Lord, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by chasing after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes. 40 Then you will remember to obey all my commands and will be consecrated to your God. 41 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt to be your God. I am the Lord your God.”

3. What would happen if we become better at these 2 things? What changes will happen to you?
 - a. **Neighboring**- *could simply mean, learning your neighbors name, praying for them, talking with them and even helping them out.*

Play the video

- b. *It involves-*
 - i. **STAY**
 - ii. **PRAY**
 - iii. **PLAY**
 - iv. **SAY**
- c. **It is NOT a strategy**
- d. **It is a WAY of life**
 - i. *Act 9:2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.*
 - ii. *Act 19:9 But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.*
 - iii. *Act 19:23 About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way.*
 - iv. *Act 24:14 But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets,*
 - v. *Act 24:22 But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of the Way, put them off, saying, “When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case.”*

4. God demonstrated neighboring in His work

- a. Gen 1:2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
- b. Exodus 19:20 The Lord descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain.
- c. 40:34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.
- d. John 1:1 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- e. 1Cor 3- Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

It is easier to love our neighbors further from us than the ones closer to us

5. Live out the grace that God has gave you