

The Importance of Relationships

from a Biblical perspective



Relationships

Outside the family

- Here's the definition:
 - Relationship:
 - The condition or fact of being related; connection or association
 - Connection by blood or marriage; kinship
 - A particular type of connection existing between people related to or having dealings with each other
- Outside the family who do you have a relationship with?
- When talking about relationships what other words come to mind?
- What do you have in common with each of them?

Relationships

Word Association

manager

friend

acquaintance

colleague

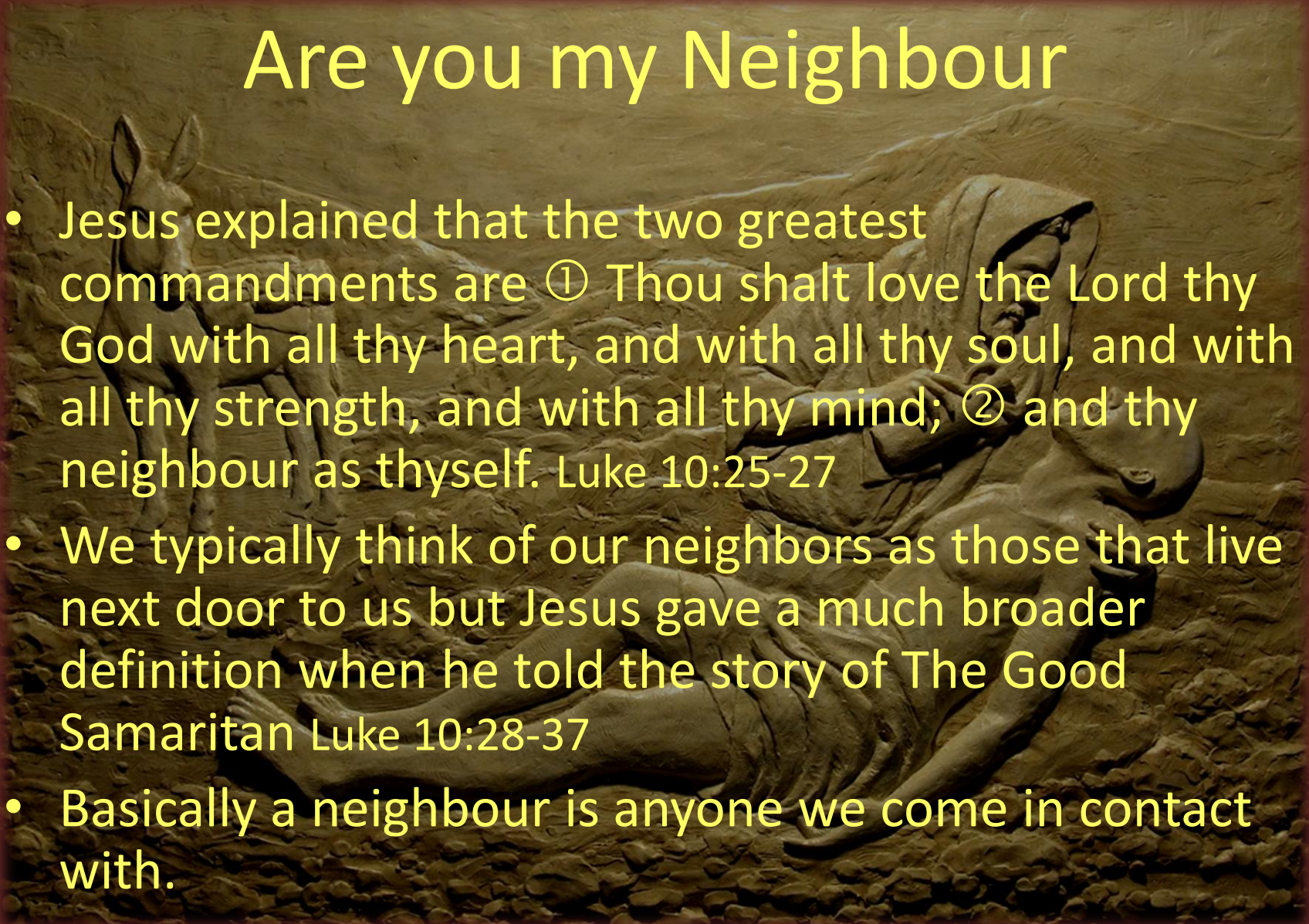
teacher

neighbour

I'm sure you can think of several more words but we'll focus on the word '**neighbour**'.

Are you my Neighbour

- Jesus explained that the two greatest commandments are ① Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; ② and thy neighbour as thyself. Luke 10:25-27
- We typically think of our neighbors as those that live next door to us but Jesus gave a much broader definition when he told the story of The Good Samaritan Luke 10:28-37
- Basically a neighbour is anyone we come in contact with.



Your Neighbour

- Note Jesus didn't simply say love your neighbour but to love your neighbour as yourself
 - Would you say you treat yourself well?
 - Do you want good things in life?
 - Have you ever been selfish?
 - Have you ever wondered why someone else got what you think you deserve?
- What do you think keeps us from loving our neighbours as we should?



Your Neighbour

- We read in both Matthew 7:12 and Luke 6:31 what is called the Golden Rule
 - Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.
 - And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.
- Much to our surprise Jesus even commands us to love our enemies
 - Luke 6:27- But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.
- Wow, is that a tough thing to do. It boggles the mind and certainly isn't what our sinful nature tells us.
- Consider this:
 - Love and kindness must start somewhere
 - How much better would our world be if everyone operated on this principle?



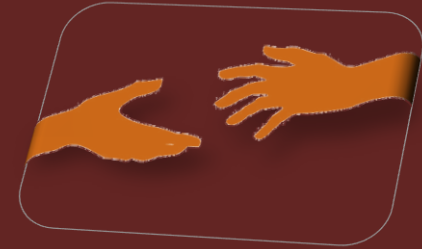
Your Neighbour

The young, old, and needy

- God has heart for children, the elderly, and the needy and so should we
 - Mat 19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.
 - Speaking to the rich young ruler Jesus told him to give to the poor Mar 10:21
 - Love is the key motive – 1Co 13:3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.
 - James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.
 - Can you think of other verses in the Bible?
 - What are ways we can help others?
 - What keeps us from offering our time service, or money



Your Neighbour

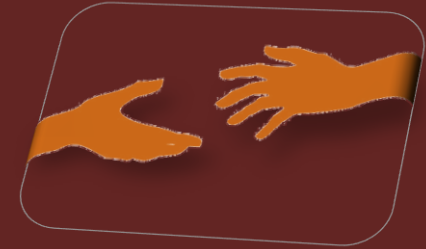


- A few more verses to read
 - Romans 12
 - Key points
 - present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service
 - be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind
 - Don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think; but think soberly
 - Love be without dissimulation
 - Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.
 - Be kind
 - Be sympathetic
 - James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Your Neighbour

SUMMARY

- Good relations with our neighbours is
 - commanded of God
 - Based on how we want to be treated
 - good for all , helps each other
 - starts with us as Christians



- What have you learned in this lesson?
- Will it cause you to think or do things differently?
- Hopefully it will lead to better and possibly restored relationships
- Next week we'll look at relationships in the Church.
- Take care and may God bless.