

Radical Loving Biblical Hospitality

“A new Commandment 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; Luke 10:27)

We have ONE CHOICE. Let us embrace our neighbor with joy, never reject them. Please notice that Jesus is not giving us a suggestion, but rather a very clear directive with His full authority as God, Creator and Messiah!

Main Text: Luke 10:25-37

Supporting Texts: Proverbs 3:3-4; 28; Matthew 28:16-20; John 13:34-35; James 4:17; I John 4:16-18

What I want you to know: “Don’t just *tell* me you love me...

What I want you to do/participate: “... *show* me you love me, with joy!”

It is imperative that we will permanently surrender and allow Jesus to write on our new heart with His redemptive blood and pierced hand a permanent, visible tattoo with God’s first and second clear commandments to keep our focus on His most vital objectives and, therefore, discover our main purpose in life as Christians: Love God and our neighbor for God’s glory and our joy.

The following are 22 ways in which we must love any person (our neighbor) in need God chooses to send us to validate our love for Him, according to His precise and permanent prescription for biblical love found in the parable of the Good Samaritan:

1. **Our love must include walking our talk** so the Gospel will become credible and transferable in our life in Christ so others may walk worthy of God who calls us into His own Kingdom and Glory. (I Thessalonians 1:8-12 & Luke 10:28)
2. **Our love requires us to stop justifying ourselves with self centered excuses** that prevents us from loving our neighbor. In other words we must come clean, become transparent with God and others and stop feeling sorry for ourselves. (Luke 10:29)
3. **Our love requires us to becoming like** the neighbor we intend to love. The Priest and Levite did not help their fellow countryman; rather, the Samaritan came to the level of the hurt Jewish man to help him. This is exactly what Jesus did. (Luke 10:30)
4. **Our love must always show the Right and only Way** with compelling clarity (our run-way must always lead people to where the action is: the Cross of Jesus Christ). Our run-way that always leads to righteousness must always be clearly marked with the Light of Christ. (Matthew 5:14-16 & Philippians 2:15) The Good Samaritan was able to shine at a moment’s notice. (John 14:6; Luke 10:33)
5. **Our love must never be condemning and devaluing of the person** if our neighbor took the wrong road and fell in the hands of the robber (the devil and his demons), perhaps for a second or third time! Rather, our love must be a love that restores just like Jesus did with Peter. (Luke 10:33, John 21; Hebrews 10:24-25)
6. **Our love must never draw attention to self**, but rather our love is always compelled to bring God the Father genuine glory that counts for eternity because the real objective is to love God by the ways in which we loves our neighbor. (Luke 10:27)
7. **Our love requires us to “guard our heart”**. Practical advice I received from my friend and mentor Dr. Hutz H. Hertzberg, chaplain at the time I arrived at Wheaton College (fall of 1988) as a Chuck Colson Scholar (Luke 10:27).
8. **Our love must always make sure that there is no distance between us and our neighbor**. We cannot love our neighbor from a position of distance. The Good Samaritan closed the gap between him and his neighbor. (Luke 10:33 & John 1:14)
9. **Our love must always make sure not to love our neighbor from a position of hitting and running**. God, our Creator (Elohim) who also keeps His covenant, did not abandon His Creation after declaring it “very good” (Gen. 1:31), rather, He engaged His creation, just like the Good Samaritan did, especially with His Paramount creation: human beings. (Luke 10:33 & 35)

10. **Our love is displayed by our pitched tent, filled with what our neighbor needs.** Our equipped tent must at least include God's glory, grace and Truth. (Luke 10:34 & John 1:14)
11. **Our love requires that we must get Dirty with our neighbor.** As a former baseball player I can say I never came back home from a game with my uniform clean. The man on the road was dirty, hurt and bloody. We discover God's joy in the dirt. (Luke 10:30)
12. **Our love must love without fear.** Fear paralyzes the Christian from doing good and hence prevents us from experiencing God's unlimited amount of joy. (Luke 10:33; James 4:17 & I John 4:18)
13. **Our love must always be visible.** The Good Samaritan became visible to his neighbor with all the right tools to serve his neighbor with effectiveness. Jesus Christ became very visible to everyone by becoming just like His human creation. (Luke 10:33-34; John 1:14)
14. **Our love must be willing to change our plans for God's plans at a moment's notice.** The Good Samaritan certainly did as soon as he saw his Jewish neighbor, who he did not see as His enemy but as his neighbor. (Luke 10:33; Acts 10:24 & Gal. 2:6)
15. **Our love must not withhold (selfishness) provision to meet the needs of our neighbor when we have the means.** The Good Samaritan invested all he had for the wellbeing of his neighbor. (Prove. 3:28; Luke 10:33-35)
16. **Our love must be tangible.** The Good Samaritan placed all he had at his neighbor's disposal to meet all of his neighbor's needs: The oil to refresh his neighbor. The wine to heal his neighbor. Similarly, Jesus Christ shed His blood to heal all of our wounds. (Isaiah 53:5-6; Philippians 2:2-10 & Luke 10:34-35)
17. **Our love must always be intentional.** In other words our love must compel us to always take the initiative to go, follow thru, and deliver with excellence the Gospel to our neighbor. (Matthew 28:19, Luke 10:33-34)
18. **Our love must be sacrificial.** The Good Samaritan gave up all he had for the sake of his one neighbor. In other words his love had a cost attached to it. He was willing to pay all that was necessary for the good of his neighbor. (Luke 10:33-35; I John 4:16-18)
19. **Our love must require us to listen to our neighbor with both ears and both eyes,** genuinely telling our neighbor that we are there with the fullness of our tender and compassionate heart. The next day. (Luke 10:35)
20. **Our love must be judicial.** In other words our love must be a PRIESTHOOD type of love that is willing to always intercede on behalf of our neighbor with confidence in the Gospel and determination in prayer. (Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:12, Luke 10:33-35)
21. **Our love must love with our tongue.** We must speak the very oracles of God to our neighbor with the right tone of voice, selecting our words very carefully, fully packaged and wrapped in God's tender, compassionate love that our neighbor can receive, retain and respond lovingly. (Luke 10:34)
22. **Our love must always come back for our neighbor.** The coming back component of the Truth of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ, the eternal Groom and Lamb, is truly coming back, sent and fully blessed by His Father, for His Bride to become His Wife who has made herself ready for the great joyful wedding. (Luke 10:35, & Revelation 19:7-8)

In verse 37 Jesus is telling the expert of the Law, and He is commanding you and me to "GO AND DO LIKEWISE." Let's love any neighbor God sends our way just like the Good Samaritan did in at least 22 ways. We have one choice; obey for God's glory, our joy, and the benefit of our neighbor and others.

I want to invite you to come to the cross, experience its beauty, redemptive power, and eternal life; surrender and die to self. At the cross there is no place for self. Our joy flows from the cross. It is then and only then that our fears will disappear because love has conquered us and our fears. It is at the cross where our capacity for love will expand without limits; Biblical love in which we will be free to love our neighbor with passion, intensity, clarity and security. Dr. John Piper said: "The cross is not only an objective object where Christ died for us, but it is also a subjective object where we, each of us, must die to self." It is from our position at the cross and on the resurrected Christ as a new creation in Christ that we must love our neighbor. We will then cause a revolution of love that will change society and our communities for the common good of all that will result in breaking the cycle of crime (our sin toward our Holy, Triune God) for good. Let the Holy Spirit work in you and with you so your fears will be conquered with love and joy!

**An extended version of this outline is available at www.koinoniahouse.org*

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