

## 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

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**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.

**This is what I want you to know: Don’t just *tell* me that you love me ...**

As Christians we must be compelled to love *radically*, cherish and *obey* the Word of God with no excuses by making sure our redeemed conscience is securely anchored at the Cross as we are fully and clearly positioned on the Resurrected Christ, with no doubts that Jesus is God and Messiah who **really** rose from the dead. (Matthew 28:16-20) We must hold that His sinless blood **really** washed our sins away permanently and for ever! **We have no other choice.** Christians ***have only one choice according to Scripture: Bring God genuine glory that will count for eternity.*** Paul clearly says “...our old man was crucified with Him (Jesus),...that we should no longer be slaves to sin, but rather ***NOW*** present your (our) members as slaves to ***righteousness for holiness. (Romans 6:6; 20).*** ***In other words, crucified men (and woman) don’t sin!*** As Christians the Word of God **is** our life. (Deuteronomy 32:47) Therefore, we must validate our love for God **by the ways** in which we show God’s love to our neighbors as clearly commanded by Scripture. When we **SHOW** our neighbor God’s love, then we bring God glory in which He delights...and He unleashes into us His unspeakable, transferable, **permanent and radical JOY**, which is lacking in so many Christians today. (I Peter 1:8) My friend Dr. John Piper reminds us that the central reason of all of Paul’s writings is to remind us that our only fight is the fight for joy. As my friend, Lake County Prosecutor, Ryan Koehl says: **“The more radical the love the more radical the joy.”**

The more glory we bring to God, the more real and transferable JOY we will experience from God. Therefore, we will experience and find complete and total satisfaction in God and will find Him to be very reliable, sweet as honey and very sufficient, which will bring huge credibility to the Gospel and to our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and is something people will notice immediately.

We have a very urgent crisis in America – the breakdown of the family that leads many to crime. This year over 700,000 people (2.4 million total prison populations in America) will be released from prison in America into our communities. 85% come from broken families. 10% of them are Christian. **They are our neighbors!** We as the church must meet them at the prison gate and **show** them the love of Jesus Christ that we have experienced, without **fear or excuses**. If we do not meet them at the prison gate, the devil will be there waiting for them with open arms, and 75% of them will come back to prison within two years. Fear is the enemy of the Christian. Fear will paralyze us from loving our neighbor, and therefore, from doing what is good and right in God’s eyes. (James 4:17)

For a Christian, **love** is the integrity of our character and our credibility, **Joy** is our trademark, **The Cross** is our identity, and **Humility** is our main ingredient. Humility is not measured by one's amount of service, rather, by our Christ-like attitude of submission and obedience. This leads us to a permanent, righteous position of **permanent joy** at the cross!! John Calvin said: "Christianity is three things: 1) humility, 2) humility, and 3) humility." He went on to say, "We as Christians must make the invisible Kingdom of God visible." This could only happen when we see our neighbor as precious creations of God with priceless value because our neighbor, just like us, has been created in the very image of God!

**This is what I want you to do/participate: show me that you love me, with JOY.**

How? By Joyfully Embracing the Incarnation; practical biblical theology, with the Grace that will empower us to experience joy in the midst of suffering. This comes from loving our neighbors, including enemies (Romans 9:1-3) by seeing the beauty of Christ on every component of the Gospel, including the Cross, Jesus' blood and His permanent resurrection.

**Become** a loving servant of others by becoming an active loving participant in God's finished work of radical redemption, by loving any neighbor He chooses to send your way, by embracing your neighbor and, therefore, loving your neighbor in at least 20 unique and practical biblical ways, as the Good Samaritan did. You will experience fresh and visible Joy!! Jesus Christ is talking about Himself through the biblical character of the Good Samaritan and hence asking you and I, to *function like the* Good Samaritan to our neighbor in this revolutionary and insightful parable of *how to love*, found in Luke 10:25-37. Jesus is asking you and me through this portion of Scripture to make sure we love God properly (His way) and therefore examine not only our **motives to love but also who we love and how we love them. Jesus wants to make sure that we love God's Neighbors, He has entrusted to us according to Scripture.**

**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 with humility to help him. This is exactly what Jesus did; Incarnation - He became one of us humans, the second and last Adam (Romans 5:15), who fulfilled the Law by becoming our **substitution** on the Cross (our cross) to **satisfy, fully and permanently**, the wrath of God (Matthew 5:17 & I Thessalonians 1:10). **"God raised Jesus from the dead to deliver us from the wrath to come"**.
4. **Our love must always show the Right and only Way. The Right and Only Way (John 14:6) with compelling clarity (our run-way must always lead people to where the action is at, 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), with bright shining lights. One Way run way to Jesus must also be kept impeccably clean (being always vigilant and making sure it is clean at all times), with the surface always smooth, with no bumps. Always making sure all the possible stumbling stones are removed from our run-way, being in constant communication with the **CONTROL TOWER (with the Chief Traffic Controller—God Almighty through Jesus Christ!)** so our neighbor will never stumble on our watch because of our ignorance or unwillingness to make sure (self reliance), Matthew 16:23-27. Our love must never then lead anyone to **crash** because we have chosen to put the**

lights out and take an unauthorized time out. We must always remember that in Christ we have become a permanent slave to righteousness for holiness. A true slave only has the **ONE** choice to serve the Master without complaining or arguing (Philippians 2:14-15 & Romans 6:19). **The Christian has no choice but to shine for Jesus all the time and lead them to redemption, which is the central theme of the Scriptures. The Christian is always on CALL** (I Peter 5:10; 2 Peter 1:10-11). The Christian's call is to make God's Call and Election sure by delivering God's love to his or her neighbor. **It is an urgent matter of life or death, or better yet, of heaven or hell.** The Good Samaritan was able to shine at a moment's notice (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), Luke 10:30, perhaps for a second or third time! Rather, our love must be a love that restores just like Jesus did with Peter. (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.** Keeping in our heart God's **Compassion fresh and vibrant DAILY**, Showing and extending the same **Compassion** (to suffer-with in Latin), **with Passion** that we received from God when we were found by Jesus Christ in the same condition as the **man, laying half dead on the road** with no ability to help himself nor to choose any type of help. (Luke 10:30)
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 as **very good (Gen. 1:31); rather, became engaged with His creation just like the Good Samaritan did, specially 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 know 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.** (Luke 10:33) The Good Samaritan did not have to pray or consult with anyone. He did what was right as soon as he saw his Jewish neighbor he came at once where his neighbor was—**at his level with joyful love. Fear paralyzes the Christian from doing good and hence preventing from experiencing God's unlimited amount of joy.** ( James 4:17 & I John 4:18)
13. **Our love must always be visible.** The Good Samaritan became visible to his neighbor with all His right tools to serve His neighbor with effectiveness. (Luke 10:33-34) Jesus Christ became very visible to everyone by becoming **just** like His human creation. (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 saw not 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.** (Prove. 3:28) The Good Samaritan invested all he had for the wellbeing of his neighbor. (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 and the Wine to heal his neighbor. Similarly, Jesus Christ shed His blood to heal all of our wounds. Bandages to cover His wounds. Jesus also atoned for **all of our sins by becoming sin for us and covered them with Christ's' righteousness.** The Good Samaritan also chose to walk for the sake of His Neighbor and placing him **gently** on His

donkey. Many today want to keep their vehicles clean and neat and therefore are not willing to transport their neighbors to Jesus where they can experience total, permanent, and radical redemption which will give them the freedom to participate in the finished work of Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 53:5-6; Philippians 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 to our neighbor Christ's complete package of redemptive love that justifies and sanctifies: the Gospel (**The Gospel is always carried as a trust from God Himself, ref. Geneva Study Bible, notes on I Thessalonians 2:4**), Luke 10:33. The Good Samaritan came to **where** the man was and rightly positioned himself before him. The man was **helpless and hopeless. The man was not able to neither help himself nor choose for himself the urgent help he desperately needed for his good and well being: Jesus Christ.** (Matthew 28:19)
18. **Our love must be sacrificial.** The Good Samaritan gave up all he had for the sake of his **one neighbor.** (Luke 10:33-35) 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. The Good Samaritan **paid in full** (and then was willing to pay for the **consequences** of any additional expenses His neighbor may acquire) for his neighbor to stay under the permanent protection and custody of the Innkeeper (The Holy Spirit) until He came back (**Jesus is indeed coming back, I Thessalonians 2:19**). Our love must be sacrificial; however our attitude as Christians must never consider loving our neighbor a sacrifice, rather a unique privilege that must produce in us overflowing joy of gratitude that will produce altitude in our attitude towards becoming lovers of our neighbors because we can only love out of the love we have first received from God through Jesus Christ. (I John 4:16-18)
19. **Our love must require us to listen to our neighbor with both ears and both eyes. This genuinely tells our neighbor that we are all there with the fullness of our tender and compassionate heart. Listening is the greatest skill we must master, through God's sufficient grace, to truly love our neighbor.** This shows that we are compassionate, it provides initial comfort and healing, and identifies the help they need. My wife Barbara tells me that the only way she wants me to love her (because I lost of my good looks already, smile) is by listening to her 20 minutes per day without saying anything back because I do not have the ability to resolve any of her problems anyway. Listening to one's neighbor provides a big portion of the healing. Interrupting one's neighbor, Barbara tells me, is not only **rude** but it shows lack of insecurity in one's redemption and who is one truly serving (Matthew 20:28). Furthermore our lack of listening does not bring God the **genuine** Glory He demands in one's worship of God. God is very clear that He will not share His glory with no one. He demands 100% of the glory (credit). God is also very clear to remind His creation, us, specially those from the House of Jacob who remain of the House of Israel that He takes full credit for given LIFE, its birth, and the sustaining of LIFE as well as rescuing us from sin and danger (Isaiah 42:8; 46:3-13). The Biblical account helps one to see that the Good Samaritan **stayed (Pitched His tent) with His Neighbor in the Inn, and knowing Jesus the Master Listener, who is portraying Himself as the Good Samaritan in this Parable, one can safely say that the Good Samaritan listened to His Neighbor, even if it was only by just making eye contact, as we read in verse 35...The Next day....** This shows you are compassionate, provide initial comfort and healing, and identified the help they need.
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, that will produce the biblical zeal and compelling loving drive to loving action towards our neighbor as a "MINISTER OF DEFENSE" as the late NFL Hall of Fame Reggie White said), but also be willing to lay down our life for Jesus' sake for our neighbor (Matthew 25:31-40).** Not from a position of emotions, like Peter did, but from a position of Truth by abiding in the Word to become free as a slave to righteousness to make sure that we will only participate in those things that **PLEASES THE FATHER** (John 8:29-36; 10:11). Our love for our neighbor must compel us to become a substitution for our neighbor and be willing to suffer for our neighbor and pay the ultimate price just like Jesus did on the Cross for each one of us (Romans 5:7; I Corinthians 6:20; I John 3:16). Furthermore our love must not only fight for our own joy, but also for

the joy of our neighbor. This type of loving practical elements that flows from our judicial love towards our neighbor is what the Good Samaritan demonstrated to His neighbor with much clarity and effectiveness! (Luke 10:35)

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 as our neighbor can also feel our love at the same time. Our tongue must be sanctified (set apart) to preach the Glorious Good News of the Gospel, as an act of supreme worship to God, as it is clearly prescribed in God's Word to: **"...set the captives free and to heal the brokenhearted.. That they may be called trees of righteousness, The Planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified"** (Isaiah 61:1-3 & I Peter 4:11). Our tongue must not allow bitterness or anger to come out, rather sweetness from our re-created heart through Jesus' complete and permanent work of redemption (2 Corinthians 5:17-21; James 3:6-12). We must keep the cross and the resurrected Christ within our new tent at all times so our waters will always be sweet and fresh to one and to our neighbor. (Exodus 15:25-26)
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 (Revelation 19:7-8). Jesus is coming back for The Church of Jesus Christ He demonstrated His love for, (Matthew 16:15-19) in His glorified Body and in the fullness of His glory as Permanent King and Mighty Power, not only because He said so in His Word (Luke 10:35.... **"When I return..."**) but because He came once already **to fully satisfy the wrath of God the Father on our behalf and therefore purchase our reconciliation with the Father for ever and ever!** Because Jesus is coming back, we must also come back for our neighbor. My friends in Angola prison in LA know that I love them **because I keep coming back with what they need. They love me also because they give back to my family and I much more than we could ever give them. They give to us out of their poverty and they give it all with very genuine love. In others they spoil my family and I as well as our ministry team and friends. One's love continues to pay. Jesus came once wrapped in amazing love that took Him to the Cross with the fullness of Gods' Glory, Grace, and Truth (John 1:14) with exactly all we were in need of.** The Good Samaritan was fully equipped with **all that** his neighbor needed (Luke 10:33-35). **And He promises to come back for His Neighbor to Fellowship with Him for ever, aleluya!!!!**

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!

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