

Neighbor[ing]

Love where you live.

Part 3: This vs. That
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What decision will you make?

Serious vs. Side-step

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” – Mark 12:28-31

Excuses vs. Engagement

I’m too busy... (Jeremiah 6:16)

I’m afraid... (1 Peter 3:13-16)

I don’t care... (James 4:17)

I’m different than them... (Ephesians 2:12-13)

I have an issue with... (Ephesians 4:32)

Good vs. God

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” – Luke 10:38-42

Ulterior motive vs. Ultimate motive

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” – Matthew 5:14-16

For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. – 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

I am not loving my neighbor in order to convert them.

I am loving my neighbor because I am convinced
that Jesus meant what he said.

Neighboring Homework

- Just pay attention
- Pray for your heart to change
- Make the right choice (from the list above)

Small Group Questions

- 1) What’s the biggest decision you had to make this week?
- 2) If we asked your neighbors what kind of neighbor you are, how do you think they would respond?
- 3) What excuses come to your mind when you hear “love your neighbor as yourself”?
- 4) How do you discern between a *good* thing and a *God* thing?
- 5) What have you learned from your neighboring homework so far?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?