

TRUMPET CALL

WELCOME TO THE UPTOWN CHURCH!

1 THESSALONIANS 4:15-17

For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check your bulletin for more information.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

A pastoral prayer of invocation, adoration, thanksgiving, and illumination.

Psalm 67:1-2, 105:4

PASSING THE PEACE

Unity & Reconciliation

*Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:11-12;
1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14; Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Corporate prayer of our covenantal commitment with our Heavenly Father through the Son of God, which encourages the confession of sin together.

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

Our Father,
who is in heaven,
holy is Your Name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.



Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.



For Yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever.

Amen.



PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

PROFESSION OF FAITH

A Faithful Saying

2 Timothy 2:11-13; Romans 11:36

ELDER

This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him

CONGREGATION

We shall also live with Him.



ELDER

If we endure

CONGREGATION

We shall also reign with Him.



ELDER

If we deny Him

CONGREGATION

He also will deny us.



ELDER

If we are faithless,

CONGREGATION

He remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself.



EVERYONE

For from Him
and through Him
and to Him are all things.
To Him be glory forever.
Amen.



PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Pastoral & Congregational Prayer

Romans 12:9-13

ROMANS 12:9-13

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.



PSALM 121:7-8

The Lord will keep you from all evil;

He will keep your life.

The Lord will keep

your going out and your coming in

from this time forth and forevermore.



BLESSING & DISMISSAL OF THE CHILDREN

Call children to the altar for prayer and blessing.

Matthew 18:1-14, 19:13-14

PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

DECLARATION OF THE LAW

The Greatest Commandment with a supplementary passage.

*Mark 12:29-31; Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-28;
John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-8,21; Romans 13:9-10; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8
Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18*

‘Hear, O Israel!

The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

And you shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your
strength.’



This is the first and great commandment.
And the second is like it:
‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
On these two commandments hang all
the Law and the Prophets.



For the commandments,
“You shall not commit adultery,
You shall not murder,
You shall not steal,
You shall not covet,”



and any other commandment,
are summed up in this word:

“You shall love your neighbor as
yourself.”

Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:9-10





YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.

Understanding the Greatest Commandment, Part 9



GREATEST COMMANDMENT: THE LAW OF LOVE, LIBERTY & LIFE

Distinct Laws in the Old Testament

- Shema — **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**
- Priestly Law — **Leviticus 19:18**

Christ Harmonizes these Laws in the NT

- Greatest Commandment + Royal Law — **Mark 12.29-31; Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-28; John 13:34-35; Rom.13:9-10; Gal.5:14; James 2:8; 1 John 4:7-8,21**





GREATEST COMMANDMENT

1. Hear, O Israel:
The Kingdom
2. The Lord our God, the Lord is one!
The Trinity (Exclusively)
3. And you shall love the Lord your God
Love Fulfills Law
4. with all your heart, soul, mind +
strength.
Whole Self + Everything
5. You shall love your neighbour as
yourself.



YOU SHALL LOVE GOD & NEIGHBOUR

- **Love Rightly Ordered:**

“God is love.... We love because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:8,19; Rom.5:8)

- **Love is an act of the will** — it is spiritual first and foremost. Love is not an uncontrollable/spontaneous emotional reaction.

- Holy Spirit (Love) >> human nature: will (love) >> intentions, beliefs, thoughts, desires, reasoning, etc. — heart, mind, soul (Ezekiel 36:26-27)



YOU SHALL AGAPE GOD & NEIGHBOUR

- Agape love is a **willful, faithful, impartial, sacrificial “giving to” another** that seeks and wills the good of the other *over* personal emotion, reciprocity, or welfare, expecting nothing in return—it just does.
- **Agape love is a freewill offering—a true sacrifice.**
- Agape is love without thinking, without feeling, without seeing, without picking and choosing—**love is being (or, in our case, becoming).**
- Love is indispensable to the image of the invisible God.



YOU SHALL AGAPE GOD & NEIGHBOUR

- Since the Triune God is love, and God loves in perfect union with Himself, and you were created in His image to be like His Son, then you were created by love, from love, for love — to be His image on earth as it is in heaven.
- **Your whole purpose in life is to love God and love neighbour like God loves Himself. You love God through neighbour.**
- **We are evil**—broken images of God. We do not love as we ought. Therefore, God commands us to love: *God is. Therefore, you shall.*
- **Why?** To heal us and restore us to whom we are supposed to be.





YOU SHALL AGAPE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.

“And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.
There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Matthew 22:39-40; Mark 12:31

YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF

- 1. Who is your neighbour?**
- 2. What does “as yourself” mean, exactly?**
- 3. Why is the second command like the first?**
- 4. Why is there no commandment greater than these two commands, to love God and love neighbour, rather than just the first command alone?** In other words, why not just love God? Why love neighbour, too?
Why did Christ join these two commands inseparably?



WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR?

Luke 10:25-29 — And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him [Jesus] to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”

And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”



WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR?

Luke 10:30-34 — Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.



WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR?

Luke 10:35-37 — And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’

Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?”

He said, “**The one who showed him mercy.**”

And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”



WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR?

- Christ is not endorsing poor theology, nor is He teaching that doctrine does not matter, neither is He saying all religious views lead to God, and that social justice (“good deeds”) is all that matters to enter heaven.
- **John 4:22** — Jesus said to her, “[Samaritan] Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews [not the Samaritans].”



WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR?

- Christ uses a priest and Levite as examples, who are emblems of Judaism, to critique the religious leaders who prioritize ritual purity and religious status over “the weightier matters of the Law” such as love, mercy, and justice.
- **Matthew 23:23** — “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.
- The Point: The Good Samaritan fulfills **Leviticus 19:18** better than they do.



WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR? YOUR ENEMY.

Matthew 5:43-48 — “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, **Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.** For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. **For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?** Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR?

Your neighbour – within Christ – includes:

- **Immediate Family:** spouse, children, parents, siblings, etc.
- **Extended Family:** aunt/uncle, nephew/niece, cousins, friends, etc.
- **Church Family:** brothers/sisters in Christ (family, true friends)



WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR?

Your neighbour – without Christ – includes:

- **Immediate Family:** spouse, children, parents, siblings, etc.
- **Extended Family:** aunt/uncle, nephew/niece, cousins, friends, etc.
- **Church Family:** people in the pews...
- **The World:** strangers, acquaintances, co-workers, colleagues, friends, frien-emies, enemies, etc.

James 4:4 — “friendship with the world is enmity with God”



WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR?

- Your love for those without Christ is broken, disunified, and naturalized.
Where there is no God, there is no agape love.
- Your love for those within Christ is being perfected and growing toward perfection—the tree of life planted by the river of life
([Revelation 22:1-2](#))
- We are called to love our enemies, but not at the expense of our loved ones, family, spouse, children, brothers/sisters in Christ, etc.



ORDO AMORIS, “ORDERED LOVE”

- You are called to love as Christ loved.
- Love must be rightly ordered, which means disordered love is evil.
- **God loves you first. Therefore, you love God, then images of God.**
- **The right order is NOT:** “Because I love my friends and my family. Therefore, I love God and He loves me.” (**Matthew 5:43-48, 10:37**)
That is natural love, which performative, works-based love.



ORDO AMORIS, “ORDERED LOVE”

- **God loves you > (1) you love God, (2) you love images of God**
 - images = neighbour, from within God to without God
 - these two laws are inseparable.
- **1 John 4:20** — “If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.”
- **Matthew 5:46** — “For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”



YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR GOD & NEIGHBOUR

- You cannot love God without loving God's children who are conforming to the image of His Son — Jesus Christ (**1 John 4:7-11, 21**).
- You cannot love Christ without loving all whom He died for.
- Love starts with the love of God first and foremost—God is love (**1 John 4:8**). Therefore, you cannot love unless you love Love first, and you cannot love at all unless love is a Person who loves you first (**John 3:16; 1 John 4:19**).
- It is through God's love that you are able to love people in the way God loves them, as Christ lives and loves through you (**Galatians 2:20**).



YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR GOD & NEIGHBOUR

- Therefore, it is improper to teach that you must love your spouse or family or church in a lesser way because you love God so much more...
- **You love God by loving them, through loving them, because it is the love of God working in and through you to them! (Matthew 25:31-46)**
- The Principle: When you agape God first and foremost, and you love Him fully, then you will agape your wife fully, you will agape your children fully, you will agape your church fully, you will agape your enemies fully. **You love them all fully because you love God fully, that is only because God is love and He loves you and them.**



YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR GOD & NEIGHBOUR

- In other words, because you love God first and foremost, you then love everyone else the most — with all that you are, with all that you can, with all that you have, and with all that you could — you fully love them.
- This does not mean your love will always be received and returned, in the same way or even at all — partial, incomplete, and unfulfilling.
- But if the recipient of your love is in Christ, then they will reciprocate God's love in return and complete it—this is unity.





FAITH WORKING THROUGH LOVE IN TRUTH

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

1 Peter 2:9

LOVE NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF?

2. What does “as yourself” mean, exactly?

- Notice that God asks you to love “as” yourself — not more or less than.
- This law implies equality, dignity, and self-worth: If God loves you and is indwells you, then you must love yourself because you must love whom God loves. Not selfishly, but sacrificially — as Christ loved you.
- **The Golden Rule: Matthew 7:12** — “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”



WHY IS THE SECOND LIKE IT?

3. Why is the second command like the first?

- **Genesis 1:26** — Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”
- Christ died for the world, and your enemies, too.



WHY NEIGHBOUR, TOO?

4. Why is there no commandment greater than these two commands, to love God and love neighbour, rather than just the first command alone? In other words, why not just love God? Why love neighbour, too?

Why did Christ join these two commands inseparably?

- a) It's impossible for them not to be inseparable — You cannot love God without loving neighbour necessarily because that is what Christ did. The second command is a necessary outpouring of the first command.
- b) God wants to save (heal) the world through you—the body of Christ.



WHY NEIGHBOUR, TOO?

- **God's plan is to reconcile and save the world through Christ, and Christ continues His saving (healing) work in and through the Church.**
- **2 Corinthians 5:18–20** — All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.



**HOW DO YOU
APPLY THIS?**

Critical Application

REFLECTION: HOW DO YOU LOVE?

How do you love your neighbour withinin Christ?

- Your spouse? **Ephesians 5:25-28**
- Your children? **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**
- Your parents? Your siblings? **Exodus 20**
- Your church, the family of God? **Romans 12:9-13, Ephesians 6:18-20**
- Your friends, coworkers, etc.? **Philippians 1:19**
- Your frienemies...?



REFLECTION: HOW DO YOU LOVE?

How do you love your neighbour without Christ?

- Your spouse?
- Your children?
- Your parents? Your siblings?
- Your church, people in the pews?
- Your friends, coworkers, etc.?
- Your enemies...?



YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR GOD & NEIGHBOUR

How do you love your neighbour within and without Christ?

- **Leviticus 19:17-18** — “You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but **you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him.** You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.”
- **v.17 (NKJV)** — “You shall surely **rebuke [or reprove]** your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.”
- **Did not Christ do the same?**





LOVE LIKE CHRIST. HEAL THE WORLD.

“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.”

1 John 4:9

PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION

Pastoral Prayer of Application of God's Word.

CALL THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH

Prayer in the aisles — altar call, confession of sin, anointing of the sick,
pastoral intercession, along with prayer, praise, and worship.

James 5:13-16; Psalm 103:2-5

JAMES 5:13-16

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.



PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

BENEDICTION

Priestly Blessing

BENEDICTION

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God the Father,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all this week.
Go in the peace that surpasses all understanding.
Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:14



