

In Luke 10, a certain lawyer wishing to justify himself asked Jesus the question, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus responds with the story of the “Good Samaritan.” Ultimately, the question is not “who is my neighbor?” rather, the most important question for a Christian should be “am I living missionally and acting neighborly?”

Jesus challenged the lawyer to stop justifying himself and directed him to act with mercy toward others.

My prayer is that we will accomplish the following:

1. Develop a clear understanding of the biblical principles of living missionally and being “neighborly.”
2. Learn to develop relationships with those who do not know Christ or run in our “church” circles.
3. Intentionally develop relationships for the purpose of sharing the gospel with our “neighbors.”

I. A PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PARABLE

The parable of the Good Samaritan describes the differences between the self-righteous and the person who genuinely knows Christ.

Self-righteousness seeks to:

- Justify self
- Discredit others
- Manipulate the law of God

Christ-follower seeks to:

- Glorify God
- Diminish self
- Model love for God and His Word

Self-righteousness:

Proverbs 30:12; Isaiah 65:5; Luke 16:15, 18:9-11; Matthew 23:25-28

Humility:

Proverbs 29:23; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:3, 5:7, 11:29, 23:23; John 13:4; Revelation 3:7

II. A PROPER APPLICATION OF THE PARABLE

Your relationship with Jesus has a direct impact on your treatment of others.

A. Because of my relationship with Jesus Christ, I am willing to examine my heart and ask the following questions:

- Do I have a self-righteous attitude?
- Do I put others down in order to build myself up?
- Do I desire for God’s Word to transform the way I think and act?
- Do I genuinely love and care about the spiritual, physical, and emotional condition of other people?
- Do I have evidence (living proof) that proves my love for Christ makes a difference in how I treat others?

B. Because of my relationship with Jesus Christ, I am willing to examine my heart and actively demonstrate mercy toward others.

- Daily
- Verbally
- Tangibly
- Freely

Too often when the word “obligation” is used, it is perceived to be negative. The principle of obligation is not a negative. The heart changed by God’s grace and mercy is motivated with a sense of obligation to extend that same grace and mercy to others. Jesus said, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be required” *Luke 12:48, NASB95*.