

Genuine faith is not the product of being neighborly, but genuine faith expresses itself when one acts neighborly.

The Qualities of Genuine Faith That Bear Evidence of True Conversion Are:

- **Loving those who hate you - *John 15:25; Matthew 5:44***

- **The will to risk – *Luke 4:28-30***

The Samaritan willingly placed himself at risk in a dangerous situation.

- **Personal sacrifice for the well-being of another**

Philippians 2 – kenosis passage – self emptying

“He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.” *Hebrews 7:27*

- **The heart to serve for God’s glory – *John 13:4-5; Matthew 20:28; Mark 9:35***

“Our help must be as wide as the love of God.” *William Barclay*

Compassion, love, and response make someone a neighbor, not locale. You can live somewhere your whole life, and never experience the love of a “neighbor” or act neighborly. The lawyer in this passage was seeking to justify himself. In reality, we can never be justified before God on our own merits. However, the one who has experienced God’s compassion, love, and grace will reflect those same qualities.

Warren Wiersbe Provided A Great Summary of This Parable:

Our greatest responsibility is to obey the greatest of the commandments, which the man quoted accurately from Leviticus 19:18 and Deuteronomy 6:5. But we cannot rightly love God or our neighbor until we have God’s love in our hearts (Romans 5:5; 1 John 4:19). If we cannot keep the greatest of the commandments (Mark 12:28–34), how can we ever hope to please God? How important it is to see that salvation is by faith, not by keeping the law; but once a person has been saved, he or she can depend on the Spirit to help fill their hearts with love.[1]

[1]Wiersbe, Warren W.: Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the New Testament. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1997, c1992, S. 173