

MAIN POINT

The church is called to show the love of Christ by sacrificially loving those who are unlike them.

INTRODUCTION

How would you say the church is called to interact with and show love to the world?

What are some things that get in the way of the church loving the world at times?

This week, we discussed the need for the church to “define the relationship” with the world. Throughout Scripture, it is clear that the church is to be set apart from the world, yet actively engaged in loving the world. But still, the questions remain: how do we love as we are called, and to whom are we called to love? Jesus told the parable of the good Samaritan to show how His people are called to love those around them.

DISCUSSION

> READ LUKE 10:25-37.

What do you think was the motive behind the man’s question in verse 25? Think about how the lawyer’s question was designed to trap Jesus, and how he even answered his own question.

What does it look like in practical terms to love God with your heart, soul, strength, and mind?

On the other hand, what actions and attitudes make it evident that you love your neighbor as yourself?

How did Jesus’ story expose the man’s true motive?

What is the most challenging part of Jesus’ story to you? Why?

Why do you think Jesus chose the Samaritan to be the hero of the story?

More than just physically crossing the road when we see a homeless person, how do we “pass by on the other side” when we see people in need?

What will move us to compassion for a human need?

Just by observing your actions, what would an outsider say you believe about loving the world?

APPLICATION

What things in your life—even seemingly “spiritual” things—might cause you to look the other way when there is a person in need? What needs to change in your heart?