

Love Next Door

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Sean Fletcher / General

XO / Mark 12:28–34

Loving our neighbors is a display of God’s love for all of US.

**Mark 12:28–34 NLT**

28 One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

29 Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord.

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

31 The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

32 The teacher of religious law replied, “Well said,

Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other.

33 And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law.”

34 Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

You can't model God's character without having a heart of love.

**1 John 4:7–8 NLT**

7 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

True love of God and others is more than just emotional

# feeling.

## Psalm 143:1–8 NLT

1 Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my plea! Answer me because you are faithful and righteous.

2 Don't put your servant on trial, for no one is innocent before you.

3 My enemy has chased me. He has knocked me to the ground and forces me to live in darkness like those in the grave.

4 I am losing all hope; I am paralyzed with fear.

5 I remember the days of old. I ponder all your great works and think about what you have done.

6 I lift my hands to you in prayer. I thirst for you as parched land thirsts for rain. *Interlude*

7 Come quickly, Lord, and answer me, for my depression deepens. Don't turn away from me, or I will die.

8 Let me hear of your unfailing love each morning, for I am trusting you. Show me where to walk, for I give myself to you.

# Never make permanent

decisions on temporary feelings.

To understand how we should love our neighbor, we must look at how much we love ourselves.