



# Hidey Ho Neighbor

## What Does Love Require of Me?

#nphideyhoneighbor

Week 2

2 of 2

May 31, 2020

**Bottom Line:** We are to love the way our Heavenly Father loves us.

**Icebreaker:** During the stay-at-home order, what did someone do for you that demonstrated love to you? What did you do for someone else?

**Key Verse:** *So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.* John 13:34-35 NLT

Life is all about learning to love and developing relationships with God and other people. You may succeed in many areas, but if you fail to learn to love God and others, you will have missed the reason God created you and put you on this planet. Real love is placing the needs of others before our own, making their problems our problems, giving without guarantee of getting anything back, giving what is needed, not what is deserved. This is the way God has loved us.

Jesus commanded us to love others as He has loved us. That's a totally new standard and kind of love. That kind of love requires community—we have to be in relationship. Spiritual maturity is determined by how well one loves, not how much one knows. The fruit of the Spirit in our relationships are horizontal, not vertical—the New Testament imperatives urge these as demonstrations of our love for God by loving others.

Jesus' new command was not an add-on. It was a replacement for everything in the existing lists, all 676 laws. It was given as the standard against which all behavior would be measured for those who called Him Lord. Over and over we read from Jesus and the New Testament letters that loving as Jesus loved is the only thing that counts.

Jesus' teaching is far less complicated but far more demanding. He insisted that even at the last judgment our love for God would be illustrated, demonstrated, and authenticated by our love for others. Christ-like love cares about people's destiny. This kind of love lives attractively to win others and share the love of Jesus. True Christ-followers live this way as compelled by love.

### THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you particularly from the message?

Self-centeredness is the root of practically every problem, both personally and globally. Reflect and discuss how you see that play out in your experience.

Although love can create intense feelings, love is not a feeling. It is a choice, an action, a way of behaving. It is commitment and sacrificing. Jesus wasn't asking us to feel something. He was commanding us to DO something. How well do you think most people understand that truth about love? Support your answer.

A first century Jew would say that love for God was shown by obeying the commands. Jesus' new answer was "Love your neighbor the way I have loved you." In today's Christian world, which answer do you think would be most frequent? Why?

Spiritual maturity is determined by how well one loves, not how much one knows. Reflect. Is that your go-to standard? Why or why not?

### LOOK IT OVER <<<

Never be fooled by the person who knows a lot but doesn't love a lot. The most spiritual person you know may know the least about Scripture. What's your gut reaction to that? Where does that reaction originate?

Jesus issued His new command as a replacement for everything else in the existing list. There's something a little unsettling about that statement for most people. Why do you think so?

Jesus said He came to fulfill the law. How would you explain that His new command fulfills the law?

Jesus' teaching is less complicated but far more demanding. Why do you think most people prefer rules to this new command? Discuss how Jesus has loved you.

Love cares about people's destiny. That's not an intellectual caring. It's an active caring, demonstrated by actions. How can we actively demonstrate love and concern for the destiny of people?

## NEXT STEPS

1. Evaluate your love for God through the lens of the way you love others. On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being very low embers and 10 being red-hot, where would you say you are on an average day?
2. Every day reflect and talk with God about your decision to love as Jesus loved you.

## EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** We are to love the way our Heavenly Father loves us.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: Galatians 5:22-23

Tuesday: Philippians 2:5

Wednesday: Matthew 25:31-39

Thursday: Colossians 4:5-6

Friday: 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Peter 3:9

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***

*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*