

Beyond Our Limits, Part 2: Loving One Another

Luke 10: 25-37

What is your limit in loving people? Is it just your family and a few friends? Where does this love end? What do we do to get beyond our love limit for our neighbor?

There are several potential love limits in this story. However, to love our neighbor means we must be able to go beyond them.

1. Racial Limits

There was racial hostility between Jews and Samaritans, but the good Samaritan in this story was willing to go beyond racial hatred, knowing the person in need may have despised Samaritans.

Lev. 19: 17-18 You shall not hate your brother in your heart...you shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Deut. 10: 19 Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

Luke 6: 31-36 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise...

2. Religious Limits

Acts 10: 15 What God has cleansed you must not call common.

Acts 10: 34-35 God shows no partiality, but in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. (Peter still had to preach the gospel for Cornelius and his household to be saved)

We are never to see ourselves as better than anyone, or see others as untouchable. This is self-righteousness at its worst, and it's common in the church.

3. Emotional Limits

Matt. 9: 36-38 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them...

Pray for them. Ask the Lord to send laborers. Ask Him to use you. Ask Him to increase your compassion for people. Ask him to help you to see them as He does, and to love them as He does.

4. Time Limits

Gal. 6: 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Sometimes we're too busy. Our schedules keep us from seeing God's divine setup in a ministry opportunity.

5. Sanitary Limits

Luke 10: 19 Behold, I give you authority...and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Ps. 91: 10 No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling.

This does not mean we should not take precautions, but don't refuse to help for fear of catching something.

6. Danger Limits

Ps. 91: 5-11

Again, this does not mean we should not exercise good judgment, but it does mean we should not be afraid when we're on assignment. God will protect us.

7. Material Limits

Prov. 3: 27-28 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due...

I John 3: 17-18 Whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart...how does the love of God dwell in him?

If we have been blessed, we are to be a blessing. We are to be rich in good works, willing to give (I Tim. 6: 18).

8. Follow-up limits

John 4: 39-41

Jesus spent extra time with the Samaritans after the woman at the well brought them to meet Him.

This does not mean we have to be involved indefinitely. Jesus was not. But the Lord will show us when our assignment is completed.

This also does not mean we become a "soft touch" and enable people to take advantage of us. It means we should be willing to do more if God so leads us.