

NEIGHBOURING



The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Wayne's sermon notes
of his message preached September 10th, 2017

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Living for Jesus in a Secular World. (This is the series we have been doing)

These verses have been at the core of this recent series...

You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:13–16

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” Colossians 4:5–6 (NIV)

Today I am going to talk to you about neighbouring.

NEIGHBOURING

I have used a great resource which I recommend – The Art of Neighbouring by Dave Runyon & Jay Pathak

What if I were to ask you to engage something that can be a bit scary, unnerving, messy, sometimes awkward, something that will infringe on your schedule...BUT YET HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BRING GREAT JOY AND TRANSFORMATION?

What if I told you that it was THE OTHER HALF OF THE 2 PARTS OF THE GREATEST COMMAND JESUS EVER GAVE?

The art and the practice of NEIGHBOURING is doing what Jesus said to do when he said...
You shall love your neighbour as yourself. Matt 22:39

Full context is found in Jesus response to the question, “what is the great commandment?”
Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘**You shall love your neighbour as yourself.**’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” Matt 22:37-40

Here is the question to explore today...

What if Jesus meant that we were supposed to love our literal neighbours?

There is mental push back on this!!

Do we have to take it so literally?

Aren't we just supposed to love EVERYBODY – EVERYWHERE.

The problem...

Everybody, everywhere, can easily become nobody, nowhere.

Why? It lacks intention, focus and specificity.



Because we do some good things here and there...we assume, we are keeping the great commandment.

Are we like the lawyer in Luke 10? Trying to justify ourselves?

Do we end up making the command of Jesus a **metaphorical command** to love our **metaphorical neighbour** with a **metaphorical love**?

We are called to love people with whom we share **proximity**, not just **affinity**.

We place our teachings and doctrines in the realm of the sacred – and so they are.

What about our space? Christianity is not a collection of disembodied concepts!!

Where we are! Do we ever see that as a divine placement? A calling to a mission?

Pushback...

The good Samaritan...he just happened to be where the man in the ditch was.

Jesus was teaching us to love people...

1. Right in front of us. 2. Who have needs. 3. Who are not necessarily like us.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE NEIGHBOURHOOD TO ME!!

Can we embrace the love of God for our neighbours?

God's love pursues us and identifies with us.

God's love for us is...

Active, not passive. Intentional, not accidental!!

Here is an exercise...

Think of your house/dwelling.

Right in the middle...eight other neighbours around you.

How many can you name?

Are they a stranger?

An acquaintance?

Do you have a relationship with them?



What can we do?

1. Prayer/Prayer Walk
 2. Learn their names.
 - Humanizes them!
 - Nothing sweeter!
 3. Look for ways to connect.
 4. Ask questions and listen well.
- Jesus asked 307 questions.
 - 8 out of 10 do not mind a conversation about faith.
 - 70% - looking for deeper meaning.
 - 65% - no one ever told me of the benefits of knowing Jesus.

Pastor Rod Barks – Church plant in the GTA

Remember...

- + We are moving them from distrust to trust.
- + Make them curious!
- + It will be messy.
- + Illustration: the pastor with the apple pie.

What are you feeling/thinking right now?
Is God growing something in your heart?

Imagine Jesus walking with you.

Simply talk and listen to Him as you go.

Ask God to give you a sense of what He feels for the people in the neighbourhood.

Ask God for insight on how you can serve and love the people here in ways they can understand.

Ask God to provide opportunities for conversation and interaction with people while you're out walking.

Ask for grace in everything you do as a missional community in this neighborhood.



Rod Barks

Yesterday at 10:14 PM · iOS · 2

We hosted a Street Party this evening for our neighbours, and were blown away by the response - 33 people, 14 households, 4 hours of laughter/stories/connecting! Amazing!

