

## **Pastor's Weekly Devotional- May 19, 2016**

### **“Won't You Be a Good Neighbor?”**

Sometimes commands in the Bible seem reasonable like “love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and Strength” (Mark 12:30); other times, it seems unreasonable like “love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31). Often, our natural response to the latter is, “I don't like him much less love him.”

“Love him like myself...you are kidding!” Like most Christians, we opt for the corollary to that command – “good fences make good neighbors,” meaning “you stay on your side of the fence and I'll stay on mine, with an occasional smile and wave from my driveway.” That's what the lawyer had in mind when he asked Jesus: “Who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29)

To be “a good neighbor”, we begin by modeling God's compassion by making stepping-stones down the walls we have built between us:

- Be Available  
Build into your schedule casual opportunities to visit your neighbors.
- Be Involved  
Model God's grace by involving yourself in service to a particular Project.
- Be Accepting  
Don't judge. Let your words, actions and lifestyle be your testimony.
- Be Vulnerable  
Don't act smart! Don't be a “smart-aleck!” Be honest and say: “I don't know!” Your neighbors know you are not perfect.
- Be Compassionate  
Behind the mask your neighbor wears, know that deep within, something is missing in their hearts.

### Prayer

Father, enable me to be your hands to serve others; your feet to help others; your eyes to behold the good of others; your heart to love others as you love them through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Have a blessed week!  
Pastor Sewdin