

I. Who is Our Neighbor?

1. In response to the lawyers' question ([Lk. 10:29](#)), Jesus provided the parable of the good Samaritan ([Lk. 10:30-37](#)).
2. We conclude from this parable that our neighbor is the person we have the **opportunity** and **ability** to help ([Lk. 10:33-36](#)).
 - a. This always equals **responsibility**!
 - b. Our neighbor also includes our enemies ([Mt. 5:43-48](#)).
3. We must do as the good Samaritan did ([Lk. 10:37](#); cf. [Pr. 3:28-29](#)).
4. This also means not committing adultery, murder, stealing, bearing false witness, coveting, and working ill to our neighbor ([Rm. 13:9-10](#)).
 - a. In other words, we should practice what Jesus taught in [Matthew 7:12](#).

II. A Balanced Love of Self

1. Love of self can be sinful ([Lk. 14:26](#), [9:23](#); [Jn. 12:25](#)).
 - a. Jesus spoke in these passages of **prioritizing** oneself over Him.
 - b. It is possible to think too highly of oneself ([Rm. 12:3](#), [16](#); cf. [Pr. 25:27](#); [Ecc. 7:16](#)).
 - c. The remedy is esteeming others better than self and taking care of one another ([Php. 2:3-4](#); [Rm. 12:10](#)).
2. A balanced love of self is mandatory ([Mt. 22:39](#)).
 - a. This goes back to the golden rule ([Mt. 7:12](#)).
3. The spiritual person must be prioritized first ([Ac. 2:40](#); [Php. 2:12](#)).
 - a. The mind must be renewed ([Rm. 12:2](#)).
 - b. Cleanse first the inside ([Mt. 23:25-26](#); cf. [Mk. 7:18-23](#)).
4. The physical body must also be taken care of ([Eph. 5:28-31](#)).
 - a. This passage is stated in context of Christ and the church as well as application to marriage.
 - b. nourisheth (*ektrepheo* G1625 verb) to provide food for, with the implication of a considerable period of time and the food being adequate nourishment (Louw, Johannes P., and Eugene Albert Nida. Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains, Electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., vol. 1, United Bible Societies, 1996, p. 248).

- c. cherisheth (*thalpo* G2282 verb) primarily means “to heat, to soften by heat”; then, “to keep warm,” as of birds covering their young with their feathers, [Deut. 22:6](#), Sept.; metaphorically, “to cherish with tender love, to foster with tender care,” in [Eph. 5:29](#) of Christ and the church (Vine, W. E., et al. Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, vol. 2, T. Nelson, 1996, p. 98).
- 5. Remember that God owns our spirit and body ([1 Cor. 6:20](#); cf. [Ezek. 18:4](#)).
 - a. He paid the price ([Ac. 20:28](#); [Jn. 17:9-10](#))!
 - b. Therefore, all that we are and can hope to be is to bring glory to God ([1 Cor. 10:31](#)).