

***Living the Kingdom Life - Part 8
(And You shall Love your Neighbor as Yourself - Part 1)
The Golden Rule - Study Guide***

Take time to read through and ponder this quote once again by Dallas Willard: I am learning from Jesus to live my life as he would live my life if he were me. I am learning how to do everything I do in the manner that he did all that he did.

Read Galatians 5:15 and 1 Peter 4:8 and compare these two passages to Leviticus 19:18 and the Mark 12 passage where Jesus commands us to love our neighbor. Take time to discuss this common theme throughout the entirety of Scripture, old and new testaments.

Read Acts 2:42-47. How did the early church exemplify the WE before ME mentality? Discuss or write down some comments below.

Read through this portion of the ***Amidah***, which is a Jewish daily prayer liturgy and listen to some of the lines in this prayer. Discuss some ways that the church can be better at worshipping corporately as opposed to the “alone” mentality.

Heal US and WE shall be healed, help US and WE shall be helped, for You are our joy. Grant full healing for all OUR wounds, for You, O God and King, are a true and merciful physician. Blessed are you, O LORD, who heals the sick of His people Israel.

Leviticus 19:18 NLT

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

Because both of these verses in Deuteronomy 6 and Leviticus share the word or phrase, “and you shall love” **ve’ahavta**, Jesus tied the two “love” commands together by using a fascinating rabbinical rule called **“A Comparison of Equals.” (gezarah sheva)**.

Because the two verses share a common word or phrase that is only found in a couple of other

places in scripture, one could assume that one line was expanding on the other, as an explanation of **HOW to love.**

Jesus was implying that loving your neighbor was as equally important as loving God. In fact, you cannot do one without the other. Discuss or ponder what this means to you personally.

Matthew 7:12 NLT

Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

Think about it... Can any one of us go throughout an entire day without doing something to someone that we wouldn't want done to ourselves? What a way to live, right?? This is, in essence, the Golden Rule. And Jesus reminds us that all of the law hinges on this command. Think on this for a moment and allow it to transform your thinking about how to love your neighbor.

Read Luke 10:25-37 in preparation for next weeks study.