

Mat.22:37-39 "you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Mar.12:30-34 "you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Luk.10:27-29 "you shall love ...your neighbor as yourself."

All quotations from Lev.19:18.

Hebrew: (ray'-ah) an associate (more or less close): - brother, companion, fellow, friend, neighbor.

Greek: (play-see'-on) close by; as noun, a neighbor, that is, fellow (as man, countryman, or friend)

Mat 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, '**you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.**'"

**Misconception:** Codex Graevii, (11<sup>th</sup> C.) reads: Thou shalt love thy *friend*, and hate thine enemy. This was certainly the meaning which the Jews put on it (Lev.19:18): those of the Jewish race, all others were considered enemies.

Christ uses it precisely in this sense in Luk.10:36-37. Who was **neighbor** (friend) to him who fell among the thieves?

He who showed him mercy; (**acted the friendly part**).

#### ACTING THE FRIENDLY PART'

Not just toward "friends."

Col.4:5 Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward *outsiders*...

Col.4:6 Let your **speech always be with grace**, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to *each person*.

Gal.6:10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us **do good** to *all people*, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

**As Jesus is kind to all.** Luk.6:35

**Toward those in your neighborhood.**

**Toward co-workers.**

**Towards those we come in contact in our daily activities.**

**Yes, some are difficult to deal with.**

Don't grow weary in well doing. Gal.6:9

#### PREPARATION NEEDED IN ORDER TO 'ACT FRIENDLY'

Need to keep the "first commandment."

Cleanse heart and life. Tit.2:11-14

Be transformed by renewing of mind. Rom.12:1-2 (12:9-21)

Set affections on things above. Col.3:1-2

#### PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF BEING 'FRIENDLY'

Fact: **This world hasn't always a friendly place for Christians.**

Especially when life-styles are vastly different.

Fact: **Everybody will not love you if you live righteously.**

Some hate the light. Joh 3:20

Ignore this fact at own peril.

Fact: we live in the world; seclusion is not the answer. 1Co.5:9-10

Fact: **While it may be difficult, it's not impossible.**

Focus on possibilities, not difficulties.

Live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age. Tit.2:12

Fact: **Opposition and persecution will happen.** 1Ti.4:13; 1Pe.4:1-5

Be prepared for those who will hate the Light.

#### MAINTAIN PROPER LIFESTYLE AMONG LESS-THAN-PERFECT NEIGHBORS

**By remembering:** Former condition; who made you alive. Eph.2:4-5

**By being:** Example, influence for good. Mat.5:13-16

Be of good cheer; not losing heart.

**By doing:** Good to all men.

Thinking, doing what is right. Phi.4:8-9

"In word and deed" doing what Jesus said. Col.3:17

**By avoiding:**

Companions who may corrupt. 1Co.15:33

Compromise which can be fatal. [Bear/hunter compromise\*]

**With Lord's help, we can overcome the world.** 2Pe.2:8-9

## V. WE MUST LIVE WITH LESS-THAN-PERFECT NEIGHBORS

1. We have no choice. We're given one body, one life, one world.
2. We can and must conduct ourselves among less-than-perfect people.
  - (1) To the glory of God and to the end of our faith: the salvation of our soul.

\*A hunter was out hunting for bears one day, and soon came across a large, trophy sized bear. She raised her rifle and took careful aim. Just as she was about to pull the trigger, the bear turned and began to speak to her!  
"Isn't it better to talk than to shoot? What do you want? Let's negotiate the matter" said the bear.  
Lowering her rifle in shock, the hunter thought a second, and then replied, "I want a fur coat."  
"Good," said the bear, "that is a negotiable item. I only want a full stomach, so let us sit down and negotiate a compromise."  
They sat down to negotiate and after a time the bear walked away alone; the negotiations had been successful. The bear had a full stomach, and the hunter had her fur coat.