**Faith that Works**

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**Daily Readings Week 2**

**Theme: “Loving Our Neighbor”**

**MONDAY 09.06.21**   **Leviticus 19:9-18**

James calls the command to “love your neighbor” the royal law of Scripture. It’s royal because it is the law of God’s Kingdom that Jesus included in the Great Commandment (Matt. 22). Leviticus 19 demonstrates God’s desire for us to love our neighbors, even those who might be strangers. Ask God to give you an opportunity to show kindness to a neighbor this week. Our world is truly in need of more kindness.

**TUESDAY 09.07.21 Deuteronomy 10:17-22**

Loving our neighbor requires us to reject favoritism and inequality. The scriptures constantly remind us of God’s deep love for the poor and marginalized in our world. His people are to offer the same love and justice that God gives us. How does understanding what God has done for us (v. 19) help us treat others better?

**WEDNESDAY 09.08.21 John 13:31-35**

What makes us a true disciple of Christ? Is it our knowledge, our abilities, our courage? No, it’s our love. Jesus says that we will be identified as his disciples by our love for one another (v.35). What can you do this week to show a brother or sister in Christ that you love them?

**THURSDAY 09.09.21 1 Timothy 6:17-19**

It may appear that the Paul and James are in opposition when it comes to works. James says that faith without works is dead (Jas. 2:17), but Paul says we are justified by faith, not works (Rom. 5:1). But Paul uses *Works* to speak of the Law (circumcision, dietary laws, etc.) while James uses *Works* for deeds of charity and mercy. In 1 Timothy 6, we see that Paul and James are on the same page. All Christians should be “rich in good works” (v. 18) especially as it relates to caring for one another. How are you storing up good treasure (v.19) and loving your neighbor?

**FRIDAY 09.10.21 1 Peter 4:7-11**

Peter emphatically states, “Above all, maintain constant love for one another." Love for one another is defined as practicing hospitality (v.9) and using our gifts to serve (v.10). It is through our love for each other that we glorify God. Are you bringing God glory with the way you treat others, even those you find difficult to love?

**SATURDAY 09.11.21 1 John 3:13-18**

John offers some strong words when he compares a lack of love to death (v.14) and hate to murder (v. 15). John ends with this, “let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” For John, it’s easy to say you love others, it’s harder to love with your actions. Loving your enemies is difficult, but it is a mark of true Christian. Who do you need to love with your actions even though they may not act lovingly toward you?

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