



February 18, 2024

Pastor Note:

“Love your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27)

When it comes to literal neighbors, people living next door, or around the corner, we have had some awesome, some average, and some awful neighbors. I love the awesome kind, but I struggle with awful ones, and yet I am commanded to love them both. Of course, the commandment of loving your neighbor includes more people than those who share my street and ZIP code. Jesus, answering the question, “Who is my neighbor?” asked by someone with a narrow definition of the term, told him to ask a better question, one that will help anyone serious about this most important commandment, “Are you a loving neighbor?”

Once we settle the “Who is my neighbor?” according to Jesus, questions like “How much?” “What does that look like?” and, “Where do I start?” will pop up. The commandment (which means it isn’t optional in God’s mind) is just one short sentence, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” but covers the what – love, the who – your neighbor, and the how – as yourself. It is a beautiful commandment, imagine if everyone on your street would live by it, what kind of neighborhood would it be? If everyone at your work kept it, what would that be like? If your entire family was guided by it every day, how good would that be?

Maybe your reaction is, “Sounds nice preacher, but that’s not my reality.” It isn’t mine either, yet the commandment to love my neighbor isn’t qualified by “love them when they love you,” but by “as yourself.” It isn’t a commandment that applies when everything falls into place, when everybody else is doing the right thing. We are called to practice and obey it now, regardless of what anyone else does or doesn’t do.

The guy asking, “Who is my neighbor?” tried to find justification for twisting the ‘who’ in the commandment, to create wiggle room for his hate, and to legitimize being unloving to some. If we are not careful, we will also twist the second part of the commandment “... as yourself.” It works like this, “I first have to love myself before I can love my neighbor.” Amazing, how quickly we can turn around a commandment that focuses us on how to treat our neighbor, back to ourselves. Nowhere does God command us to love ourselves, we already know how; “as yourself” is the practical starting point of actually loving your neighbor. In Matthew 7:12 Jesus puts it this way, **“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets”** (NIV).

The Apostle Paul, expounding on the commandment to love our neighbor wrote, **“Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God’s law. For the commandments say, ‘You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet.’ These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God’s law”** Romans 13:8-10 (NLT2). Loving your neighbor isn’t some psychological self-help text, it is a commandment that centers us on others. More self-centeredness, more me-focused love, doesn’t make us healthier or better. But, ironically, when we focus less on ourselves and more on others we don’t become less but more.

Jesus looked at his disciples, who knew the commandment **“Love your neighbor as yourself,”** and expanded the qualifier, **“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples”** John 13:34-35 (NLT2). It’s one thing to love my neighbor as myself, it is quite another to love him or her like Jesus. Jesus obviously thought that both are possible. God’s commandments are never setups for failure, they have His full support, with His help we can love our neighbor as ourselves, like Jesus.

I do know when the command to love my neighbor is challenging, hard to flesh out, even overwhelming, we are free and welcome to, **“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; those who seek find; and to those who knock, the door will be opened. Which of you, if your child asks for bread, will give him or her a stone? Or if your child asks for a fish, will give him or her a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets”** Matthew 7:7-12.

To God be all glory. Love you, Pastor Hans



Lord Hear Our Prayers

PRAYER REQUEST

NAMB - Bill & Katie Deckert (Church Planter of Emmanuel Baptist Church) pray that their church would have an open door with the surrounding immigrant communities, John & Rimma King, Richard Mayes Bill, Shirley Wolfenbarger, Gabi (Knee Surgery), Greg Demauro (cancer), Loren (Adiction), Billy (Challenges), Henry (Back Pain), Judy Mahar's grandson Army Natl Guard serving in Jordan, Arthur, John Criswell (Health), Mary, Judi Sayers Father (Health), And VBS 2024

SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray, Farney, Peter, Jimmy, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing, Noah Martin, John Michael Chavez, Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker, Brian Sula, Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen, Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski, Christopher Sula

CARD & FLOWER MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, please let us know by calling: **Lynnette Barrera** – (559)400-1862 & Prayer Request e-mail to: **Judy Mahar**
ldpbcpayer@gmail.com

Church Board Members:

Hans Frei - Pastor . Richard Mayes - Head Deacon , Sue Kluding, Gabi Cox, Chuck Arndt, Sue Hankemeier, Barb Deibler

Ministry Opportunity

Our children's department is seeking help for our Wednesday night class to assist the teacher. No teaching or prep is required - just show up to help as needed.

For more information, contact Susie Frei

(phone: 209-247-9234) or skfrei@gmail.com).

Where are you uniquely wired to serve??

- Multimedia
- Music
- Prayer Team
- Facility & Grounds
 - Youth
 - Kitchen
 - Food
 - Missions

Let us know. There's a place for you

February Announcements

Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:00 P.M.
- Women's Morning Bible Study— Wed. @ 10:00 AM
- Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages - 7:00 P.M.
- Food Ministry - 1st Wed. & 3rd Tues. @ 9:00 AM - 11:00 A.M.

Communion Sunday February 25th

Fellowship Time Snacks were provided
By - **"Beverly's Class & The Youth"**

Thank you

Next week Merle's Class is up!!

Membership Seminar

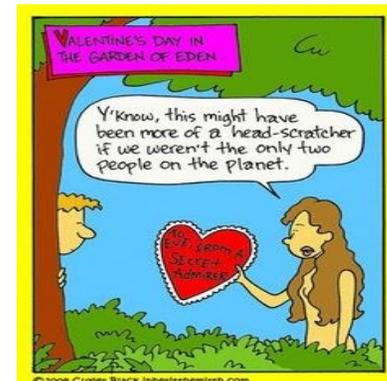
scheduled for

Saturday, March 2

9 AM - 1:30 PM

Sign-up List is in the Foyer

A Bit of
Humor
Corner



Giving

February 11, 2024

Offering:
\$2,226.00

Food Basket:
\$30.00

Facilities:
\$.00

Books & Material:
\$5.00

Attendance:
96

Weekly Events

Sunday School/Small Groups:

9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Service:

10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship Service:

6:00 PM

Tuesday: Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday

Food Ministry:

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Wednesday:

Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM
Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM
Grief Share - On Hiatus

Thursday: Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church

4175 Abeto Street

La Grange California 95329

209-852-2029

ldpbaptistchurch@gmail.com

www.ldpbaptistchurch.com



February 19th - February 25th

DAY 1 - Ex. 21-22
(Ps. 19)

DAY 2 - Ex. 23-24
(Ps. 20)

DAY 3 - Ex. 25-26
(Ps. 21)

DAY 4 - Ex. 27-28
(Ps. 22)

DAY 5 - Ex. 29-30
(Ps. 23)

DAY 6 - (Ps. 24)
DAY 7 - (Ps. 25)

Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.