

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself." "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" **Luke 10:25–29 (NIV)**

- GK Chesterton: "We make our friends, we make our enemies, but God makes our next door neighbor!!"

Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

1 John 4:20–21 (NIV)

THREE QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF WHEN YOU ARE HAVING A HARD TIME LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

1. DOES THIS PERSON BEAR THE IMAGE OF GOD?

If anyone takes a human life, that person's life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings in his own image. **Genesis 9:6 (NLT)**

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. **James 3:9–10 (NIV)**

Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker... **Proverbs 17:5 (ESV)**

- God's image was placed in humanity at **CREATION**, not at **REDEMPTION**

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

2. HOW WOULD I WANT TO BE TREATED IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES?

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. **Matthew 7:12 (NIV)**

"What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow: this is the whole Torah; the rest is the explanation. Go and learn." - Hillel the Elder

3. WHAT IS THE NEXT LOVING THING TO DO?

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." **Luke 10:37 (NIV)**