

Why are We Here?
Part 2: To Loving Others
Matthew 22: 36-40

How do I love my neighbor as myself?

1. Experience Love for God

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:7-8 New International Version (NIV)

- ◆ We cannot give what we do not have. Once we experience God's Love through Christ, He gives us a new heart (**desire**) and new Spirit (**power**)

²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 New International Version (NIV)

2. Embrace Love for Yourself

¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Psalms 139:13-14 New International Version (NIV)

- ◆ One of the blessings of doing life with your church **family** is being affirmed in your inherent **worth**.

3. Enact Love for Others

- ◆ True, *agape* love is less about emotion and more about **attitude** (see Philippians 2:1-11) and **action** (see 1 Corinthians 13).
- ◆ You know that you love your neighbor as yourself when you stop **criticizing** them and start **standing up** for them.