

## 40 SCRIPTURES ABOUT LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

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By putting together all the scriptures in the bible having the word neighbor in them, we can get a better idea of how God wants us to love our neighbor. We can then really meditate on our relationship with our neighbors in the light of all these scriptures.

1.

Ex. 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's. (See also Deut 5:21)

*Note: You love your neighbor by having an attitude of goodwill toward him and not being covetous of anything he has. This would include many things that are not listed here such as being covetous of a position of authority or a talent that your neighbor might have. Jesus spoke in Lk 12:15-21 of covetousness in relation to two brothers fighting over their inheritance and in relation to selfishly laying up treasures for yourself but not being rich toward God. We are also warned of those who through covetousness will make merchandise of us. (2Pe 2:3) This is the essence of the covetous attitude, to only be interested in a person because of what he has that you want or what he can do for you.*

2.

Ex. 21:14 But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbor, to slay him with guile, thou shalt take him from mine altar that he may die.

*Note: You love your neighbor by honoring his life. In the NT, we find that hating a person in your heart is the same as murder.*

3.

Ex. 22:7-14 If a man shall deliver unto his neighbor money or stuff to keep, and it be stolen out of the man's house; if the thief be found let him pay double. If the thief be not found, the master of the house shall be brought unto the judge to see if he have put his hand unto his neighbor's goods. For all manner of trespass, whether it be for ox, or for ass, for sheep, for raiment, or for any manner of lost thing, which another challengeth to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and whom the judges shall condemn, he shall pay double unto his neighbor. If a man deliver unto his neighbor an ass or an ox or a sheep or a beast to keep and it die or be hurt or driven away, no man seeing it, then shall the oath of the Lord be between them both, that he hath not put his hand unto his neighbor's goods; and the owner of it shall accept thereof, and he shall not make it good. And if it be stolen from him, he shall make restitution unto the owner thereof. If it be torn in pieces, then let him bring it for witness and he shall not make good that which was torn. And if a man borrow ought of his neighbor and it be hurt or die, the owner thereof being not with it, he shall surely make it good. (See also Lev 6:2-5)

*Note: You love your neighbor by not stealing from him, but by having respect and care for his property if you come to have it in your possession.*

4.

Ex. 22:26-27 If thou at all take thy neighbor's raiment to pledge, thou shalt deliver it to him by that the sun goeth down: for it is his covering only, it is his raiment for his skin: wherein shall he sleep?

*Note Here is an example of this commandment. Let's say a man wanted to borrow his neighbor's ox to plow his field because he had no ox. He gave the owner his coat as a pledge that he would return the ox when the field was plowed. The owner would be obligated to return the coat before the sun goes down whether the field was done or not because in this case loving your neighbor means that the physical welfare of the borrower is more important than the deal that was made. In those days they did not have closets full of clothes as we do today. Could we find an occasion where we could apply this principle today when we lend something to someone?*

5.

Lev. 18:20 Moreover, thou shall not lie carnally with thy neighbor's wife, to defile thyself with her. (See also Lev 20:10, Deut 22:23-26)

*Note: You love your neighbor by staying away from his wife. (or her husband).*

6.

Lev. 19:13 Thou shall not defraud thy neighbor, neither rob him; the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning. (See also Jer 22:13)

*Note: You love your neighbor by not defrauding him. Defrauding means that you are under obligation to do something for him but do not do it. An example of defrauding in the NT is 1Co 7:5 which says that if you do not give your husband/wife their marital rights, you are defrauding him/her. If you hire someone to do some work, you must not put off paying them.*

7.

Lev. 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the Lord.

*Note: You love your neighbor by not avenging nor bearing any grudge when he has done you wrong.*

8.

Lev 24:19 ...And if a man cause a blemish in his neighbor, as he hath done, so shall it be done to him.

*Note: An interesting New Testament 'spirit of the law' application of this would be to compare Eph 5:27 which says that Christ washes the church by the water of the word that she might be holy and without 'spot or blemish' and 2Pe 2:13 which talks about spiritual 'beasts' who are 'spots and blemishes' sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast among you. So these blemishes spiritually are various deceivings, wrong attitudes, and false doctrines. You love your neighbor by not yourself causing any blemish in him, physical or spiritual blemishes.*

9.

Lev. 25:14 ...And if thou sell ought unto thy neighbor, or buyest ought of thy neighbor's hand, ye shall not oppress one another.

*Note: You love your neighbor by not being oppressive in buying and selling. This scripture has to do with decreasing prices depending on how close we are to the Jubilee year. This teaches us not to oppress one another. The world has it backwards; we have inflation where prices just keep going up. This also reminds us of the oppressiveness of the coming beast who causes all to receive a mark so that no one can buy or sell unless they have the mark.*

10.

Deut. 15:2 And this is the manner of the release: Every creditor that lendeth ought unto his neighbor shall release it; he shall not exact it of his heighbor, or of his brother; because it is called the Lord's release.

*Note: You love your neighbor by forgiving his debt in the seventh year, the year of release according to the commandment of the Sabbath Jubilee years.*

11.

Deut 19:14 Thou shalt not remove thy neighbor's landmark which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the Lord thy God giveth thee to possess it.

*Note: You love your neighbor by respecting his property rights.*

12.

Deut. 23:24-25 When thou comest into thy neighbor's vineyard, then thou mayest eat grapes thy fill at thine own pleasure; but thou shalt not put any in thy vessel. When thou comest into the standing corn of thy neighbor, then thou mayest pluck the ears with thine hand; but thou shalt not move a sickle unto thy neighbor's standing corn.

*Note: Here again is a respect for thy neighbor's property. As we recall, Jesus went through the cornfields and plucked a few ears to eat on the Sabbath. It would not be stealing to do this according to God's standard.*

13.

Deut. 27:24 Cursed be he that smiteth his neighbor secretly. And all the people shall say, Amen.

*Note: You love your neighbor by not plotting against him to do him harm.*

14.

Pr. 25:17 Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbor's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.

*Note: You love your neighbor by not making a pest out of yourself.*

15.

Ec. 4:4 Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbor. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit.

*Note: You love your neighbor by not being jealous of him.*

16.

Jer. 23:30 Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that steal my words every one from his neighbor.

*Note: Perhaps this has to do with plagiarism.*

17.

Jer. 34:17 Therefore thus saith the Lord; ye have not hearkened unto me in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother, and every man to his neighbor (in the seventh year): behold, I proclaim a liberty for you, saith the Lord, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

*Note: This has to do with slaves being freed in the Sabbath year. Thus a slave is considered a 'neighbor'.*

18.

Eze. 22:12 In thee have thy taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbors by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord.

*Note: You love your neighbor by not making unjust or unfair gain of him such as taking bribes, taking usury (which is to charge an exorbitant interest rate), and extortion (which is taking from your neighbor by coercion or intimidation).*

19.

Hab. 2:15 Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth the bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness.

*Note: There is a difference between providing alcoholic beverages or drugs for others having a good motive, such as at the wedding feast for the marriage at Cana, and providing these things in order to take advantage of others.*

20.

Zech 8:16 These are the things that ye shall do; speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates. (Also Eph. 4:25)

*Note: You love your neighbor by exercising just judgment concerning him and being at peace with him.*

21.

Zech 8:17 ...And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbor; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate saith the Lord.

*Note: You love your neighbor by watching your imagination when you are thinking about them. A false oath means that you say or promise that you will do something and do not do it.*

22.

Mt. 5:43-44 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you.

*Note: You love your neighbor by blessing him if he curses you, by doing good to him if he hates you, and by praying for him if he uses and persecutes you.*

23.

Lk 10:36-37 Which now of these three thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, he that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go and do thou likewise.

*Note: You love your neighbor by showing mercy to him when he is in trouble.*

24.

Rom 15:2 Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification.

*Note: You love your neighbor by pleasing him, but not in something that is not for his own good. Edifying means to build up. How often do we meditate on things we can do to please and build up others?*

25.

Jas 2:8-9 If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scriptures, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect of persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

*Note: You love your neighbor by not having respect of persons, but by treating all with respect, kindness justice, etc. whether male/female, rich/poor, young/old, all races etc.*

26.

Gal 5:14-15 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

*Note: The natural world is a jungle environment where they bite and devour one another needing to always be alert that they are not consumed of others. We can choose this environment for ourselves socially and spiritually, or we can overcome human nature and choose the environment of the Kingdom of God where every creature loves his neighbor as himself and there is no biting or devouring or fear of others.*

27.

Rom. 13:7-10 Render, therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

*Note: You love your neighbor by giving anything that is due to them, tribute, custom, fear, honor, by doing your best to owe no man anything except love.*

I have grouped the following scriptures together because they all have to do with how we can harm our neighbor with our mouth...

28.

Ex. 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. (See also Deut 5:20)

*Note: You love your neighbor by never telling something about him that is not true or that you do not know for sure.*

29.

Job 12:4 I am as one mocked of his neighbor, who calleth upon God, and he answereth him: the just upright man is laughed to scorn.

*Note: You love your neighbor by not mocking or making fun of him.*

30.

Lev. 19:16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbor: I am the Lord.

*Note: You love your neighbor by not spreading tales about him/her. You stand against his blood or life (the life is in the blood) by doing something that is detrimental to his life.*

31.

Lev. 19:17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thy heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him.

*Note: You love your neighbor, not by secretly hating him in your heart, but by telling him when he is doing wrong so that he will have a chance to repent and the sin will not remain on him.*

32.

Ps. 12:2 They speak vanity every one with his neighbor: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.

*Note: You speak vanity by not speaking sincerely, but flattering.*

33.

Ps. 15:3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor.

*Note: You love your neighbor by not talking about him behind his back and by not participating in a reproach against him.*

34.

Ps. 28:3 Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbors, but mischief is in their hearts.

*Note: Similar to 18, but in this case you speak peace rather than flattery. You love your neighbor by not being a hypocrite.*

35.

Ps 101:5 Whoso privily slandereth his neighbor, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

*Note: A slander is a false and malicious statement or report that damages the reputation or well-being of another.*

36.

Pr. 3:28 Say not unto thy neighbor, go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.

*Note: You love your neighbor by not making him wait for his requests when it is not necessary.*

37.

Pr. 11:9 An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbor, but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.

*Note: Always remember that you can destroy your neighbor with your mouth.*

38.

Pr. 16:29 A violent man enticeth his neighbor, and leadeth him into the way that is not good.

*Note: You love your neighbor by not enticing him to follow you in a wrong way.*

39.

Isa. 41:6 They helped every one his neighbor; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage...(to do evil and make idols)

*Note: You love your neighbor by not encouraging him to do evil or make idols.*

40.

Jer 23:27 ...which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbor, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal.

*Note: You love your neighbor by not causing them to forget God.*