



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ APRIL 2018 ❖

‘Love Your Neighbor’

Beginning in the Old Testament and continuing in the New Testament, it appears eight times. This does not include the many places where such love is demonstrated. It’s one of the two commandments considered to be the greatest by our Lord: LOVE GOD and LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.

“You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall **love your neighbor** as yourself; I am the LORD.”

Leviticus 19:18

“You have heard that it was said, ‘you shall **love your neighbor** and hate your enemy.’”

Matthew 5:43

“Honor your father and mother; and you shall **love your neighbor** as yourself.”

Matthew 19:19

“The second is like it, ‘you shall **love your neighbor** as yourself.’”

Matthew 22:39

“The second is this, ‘you shall **love your neighbor** as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:31

For this, “you shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying,

“you shall **love your neighbor** as yourself.”

Romans 13:9

For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement,

“you shall **love your neighbor** as yourself.”

Galatians 5:14

If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture,

“you shall **love your neighbor** as yourself,” you are doing well.

James 2:8

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**Note how we are to love our neighbor: “As yourself!”**

# Seven Fools

FOOL: empty-headed, self-confident, thoughtless, heedless, dull lacking perception of reality, stupid. The word shouldn't be used lightly. Thus when God calls one a "fool," we need to give careful attention. There are lessons to be learned.

**ATHEISTIC FOOL** (says "there is no God") Psalm 14:1

Any thought that there is a supreme being is ridiculed.

The belief that God creating all things is strongly opposed.

Any thought of a Supreme being holding one accountable is scorned.

Rejects the fact that the heavens declare His glory. Psalm 19:1-2

*Fool because he refuses to believe in a supreme being.*

**RATIONAL FOOL** (won't accept what he can't explain) 1 Corinthians 15:35-36a

Resurrection, miracles, etc. are unacceptable.

Ignores the parallels in nature. (36b-38)

*Fool because he lacks perception of things spiritual.*

**THOUGHTLESS FOOL** (doesn't obey) Matthew 7:26

Hears, but doesn't heed.

Builds on the "sand." Thinks all is well, but his house will fall.

*Fool because he chooses not to do what the Lord says.*

**RICH FOOL** (trusts in oneself) Luke 12:20

Thinks he has it made. :19

Overlooks fact that "life is more than abundance." :15

Life is more than having, it's being. Matthew 6:25

Puts his trust in things, not God. 1 Timothy 6:17-19

*Fool because he lacks perception of what life is all about.*

**SELF-RELIANT FOOL** (ignores God) Romans 1:22

Unthankful. 1:21

Delights in own wisdom.

Believes he has the right to enjoy maximum pleasure.

*Fool because his ways will only lead to moral as well as spiritual corruption.*

**INTELLIGENT FOOL** (wise in own eyes) 1 Corinthians 1:20

Refuses to recognize the limits of his own wisdom.

*Fool because he trusts in the wisdom of world. 1 Corinthians 3:18-20*

**RELIGIOUS FOOL** (inwardly corrupt) Luke 11:39-40

Careful to perform duty. Matthew 23:23

Careless and indifferent about integrity. James 1:23-25

*Fool because he equates "ceremony" with "substance" (true religion).*

There is a "fool" who is truly wise – one called "fool" by the world. 1 Corinthians 1:18-19

Better to be called a fool by others than be seen as a fool in God's eyes.

*Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

Ephesians 5:15-17

# Samaritans

**It was a Samaritan who had compassion on an injured stranger, not a priest or a Levite.**

*But a Samaritan who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion...*

Luke 10:33

**It was a Samaritan who thanked Jesus for healing his leprosy.**

*... and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan.*

Luke 17:16

**It was the Samaritans who believed Jesus to be the Messiah (Christ).**

*From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him [Jesus] because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all the things that I have done."*

John 4:39

## BACKGROUND

Samaritans is the name given to the new and mixed inhabitants whom Esarhaddon, the king of Assyria, brought from Babylon and other places and settled in the cities of Samaria, instead of the original inhabitants whom Sargon had removed into captivity. These strangers intermingled with the Jews still remaining in the land, and gradually abandoned their old idolatry and adopted partly the Jewish religion. The Jews in Jerusalem refused to allow them to take part with them in rebuilding the temple, and hence sprang up an open enmity between them. They erected a rival temple on Mount Gerizim, which was, however, destroyed by a Jewish king. They then built another at Shechem. The bitter enmity between the Jews and Samaritans continued in the time of our Lord. — Easton's Bible Dictionary

## THE LESSON

The lesson to be learned by specifying "Samaritans" was to show that those who claimed to know the Law failed to keep it (as summed up in "love God and love your neighbor"). This was difficult for the Jews to accept. On one occasion they said to Jesus, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" John 8:48

## WHAT'S IMPORTANT? LOVE!

Knowledge of the will of God is important. Believing in Jesus is important. Assembling is important. But loving God and lovingly doing His will are paramount.

*"You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself."*

Luke 10:27

*If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.*

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

## THE GOAL

**But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.**

1 Timothy 1:5



# Ponder This

## Salt



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## MERCY

You can separate the sodium and chloride that constitute salt, but when you finish you no longer have salt. When you separate faith from behavior in daily living, you no longer have Christianity.

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"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men."

Matthew 5:13

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4

... we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:9-10

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### TWO IMPORTANT POINTS

Sodium and chloride separated are powerful and dangerous chemicals.

**Faith and behavior separated are powerless to save.**

### Greek Definition (*eleos*):

Kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them.

–of men towards men: to exercise the virtue of mercy, show one's self merciful.

–of God towards men: in general providence; the mercy and clemency of God in providing and offering to men salvation by Christ.

–the mercy of Christ, whereby at his return to judgment he will bless true Christians with eternal life.

– Thayer's Lexicon

(Mercy is sometimes translated "have compassion.")

### English Definition

Compassionate treatment, especially of those under one's power; A disposition to be kind and forgiving; Alleviation of distress.

– American Heritage Dictionary

### ADMONITIONS

*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

Ephesians 4:32

*So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.*

Colossians 3:12-13

F.Y.C. is a monthly publication by Ron Adams.

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