

Thou Shalt Love Thy Neighbour

by C.H. Spurgeon

The sermon emphasizes the importance of loving one's neighbour, regardless of their circumstances, and following the example of Christ in doing so.

Scripture: Matthew 22:39, Galatians 5:14, James 2:1

Topics: "Love", "Equality"

Description

C.H. Spurgeon emphasizes the command to 'Love thy neighbour,' urging both the rich and the poor to embrace this principle without envy or scorn. He challenges the wealthy to recognize their obligation to love those less fortunate, asserting that all are equal in God's eyes. Spurgeon encourages believers to persist in love, even in the face of ingratitude, highlighting that true love is heroic and reflects the character of Christ. He reminds us that our love, regardless of how it is received, is ultimately pleasing to God.

Transcript

"Love thy neighbour." Perhaps he rolls in riches, and thou art poor, and living in thy little cot side-by-side with his lordly mansion; thou seest every day his estates, his fine linen, and his sumptuous banquets; God has given him these gifts, covet not his wealth, and think no hard thoughts concerning him. Be content with thine own lot, if thou canst not better it, but do not look upon thy neighbour, and wish that he were as thyself. Love him, and then thou wilt not envy him.

Mayhap, on the other hand, thou art rich, and near thee reside the poor. Do not scorn to call them neighbour. Own that thou art bound to love them. The world calls them thy inferiors. In what are they inferior? They are far more thine equals than thine inferiors, for "God hath made of one blood all people that dwell upon the face of the earth." It is thy coat which is better than theirs, but thou art by no means better than they. They are men, and what art thou more than that? Take heed that thou love thy neighbour even though he be in rags, or sunken in the depths of poverty.

But, perhaps, you say, "I cannot love my neighbours, because for all I do they return ingratitude and contempt." So much the more room for the heroism of love. Wouldst thou be a feather-bed warrior, instead of bearing the rough fight of love? He who dares the most, shall win the most; and if rough be thy path of love, tread it boldly, still loving thy neighbours through thick and thin. Heap coals of fire on their heads, and if they be hard to please, seek not to please them, but to please thy Master; and remember if they spurn thy love, thy Master hath not spurned it, and thy deed is as acceptable to Him as if it had been acceptable to them. Love thy neighbour, for in so doing thou art following the footsteps of Christ.

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