"The Wisdom of Loving Your Neighbor"
Proverbs 3:27-35

C.I.T.—Wisdom properly applied will result in a Christian ethic toward others.
C.I.S.—Your ethic toward others shows your relationship with Jesus.
Purpose—I want Christians to evaluate and adjust their ethic with others.
Introduction—**Matthew 22: 36-40**

I. ***How We Treat Our Neighbors Reflects Our Faith*.** Vs. 27-30
   a. Be Responsible.
      i. Withhold good—services, goods, emotional and material
      ii. In your power—can't give something you don't have.
      iii. Limited to those to whom it "belongs"
         1. They have a legitimate claim on the "good" that you have.
         2. Examples of people who have a legitimate claim on you
            a. Wife and family
            b. Church
            c. Poor, widows, orphans
            d. Indebted to or contracted with
         3. Examples of not—lazy, sluggard, sleazy
      iv. You serve simply as a conduit through which the Lord provides for others.
      v. If you close the spigot because of your selfishness, it affects everyone else who depends on you.
   b. *Be Charitable*.
      i. You have something in your possession that you are able to give.
      ii. Someone asks for help.
      iii. Answer that I will give it to you tomorrow.
         1. Intentional procrastination
         2. You don't want to give it.
         3. You hope the need passes or that they forget about it.
      iv. Neighbor—someone who lives close or in your sphere of influence, friend, companion, etc.
      v. When this person is in need, we are to be generous and charitable.
   c. Be Dependable
      i. Again the person is our neighbor, who lives near us.
      ii. Sense of security and trust in a neighbor.
      iii. Here we are told not to plot against them—make plans that will hurt our neighbor in order to promote ourselves.
      iv. We must be dependable and trustworthy.
   d. Be Peaceable
      i. Those who are peaceable—have not cause a reason to retaliate or contend
      ii. Strive/contend/fight/accuse
      iii. Attempt to attack for personal gain.
      iv. If they don't deserve it, then don't do it
      v. Examples
         1. Slander/gossip

2. Frivolous lawsuits, just to get something out of them

e. Illus.—Parable of the Good Samaritan

f. Application

i. Neglecting to love others stems from a lack of love for Jesus.

ii. In chapter 3, living with wisdom allows someone to live in peace and not have to manipulate their situation because they trust in Jesus.

iii. One who doesn't live with wisdom, will have to trust in themselves and in their money/possessions.

iv. This leads to greed, which elevates self above everyone else.

v. When we elevate ourselves and our greed, then we will withhold from those who depend on us, we procrastinate with those who need us, we plot against those who trust us, and we attack those at peace with us.

vi. These behaviors reflect a lack of faith in Christ, which shows itself with lack of faithfulness with others.

II. ***How We Treat Our Neighbors Reveals Our Future.*** Vs. 31-35

a. Don't follow a violent man—someone who takes advantage of others for his own gain—summarizes the previous prohibitions.

b. The LORD treats people differently.

i. Detestable vs. Friendship

1. Abomination is something that grosses out God, is detestable.
2. Someone who gets the intimate counsel of God, a close friend

ii. Cursed vs. blessed

1. Curse the household, building and persons
2. Blessed the dwelling/sour of life

iii. Mocking vs. grace

1. Mocking is to bring them low.
2. Grace is to elevate them

iv. Dishonor vs. honor

1. God will actively bring dishonor on the one who is violent
2. He will elevate the value and honor those who are wise—inheritance—something given in the end
3. This has a view on ultimate salvation.

c. Illus.—Parable of the Unforgiving Servant **Matthew 18:35; Matthew 6:14-15**; Parable of the Sheep and Goats **Matthew 25:41-46**

d. Application

i. How you treat others reflects your faith.

ii. It also reveals your future.

iii. It isn't that if you aren't charitable that you will go to hell.

iv. It is an lifestyle that lacks love for neighbor stems from a heart that lacks love for Jesus.

v. If we have the love of Jesus in our hearts, we cannot do anything but love others.

Conclusion

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- You can’t love the Lord your God if you don’t love your neighbor.
- What behaviors do you have in your life that are lacking love?
    - Are you giving to those who are dependent upon you?
    - Are you being honest to others?
    - Are you giving good to the lost by sharing Jesus with them?
- Repent of lovelessness toward others.
- The greatest act of love is laying down your lives for others.
- Jesus reveals his love for His father, by demonstrating His love for us.