

Christ's Parable of the Good Samaritan (Gospel of Saint Luke 10:25-37)

And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit **eternal life**?

He said unto him, What is written in **the law**? how readest thou?

And he answering said, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.**

And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And **who is my neighbour**?

And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had **compassion** on him,

And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

And he said, He that showed **mercy** on him. Then said Jesus unto him, **Go, and do thou likewise.**

The Parable of the Good Samaritan



**“A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another;
even as I have loved you,
that you also love one another.
By this all men will know
that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.”
(John 13:34)**

The New Testament tells us that Jesus Christ came to fulfill the prophesy and the laws of the Old Testament. Christ's teachings about the law of God is a **"New Covenant."** A covenant is an agreement.

To love God and one another is what God always wanted the people to do. But in ancient times, the people did not understand it.

The commandments to love God and our neighbors are the basis of the laws given to Moses. We still follow the Ten Commandments that were given to Moses in Old Testament times. The first four of them are our obligations to God. The second six show the way that God expects us to treat one another. **Jesus Christ explained that His "New Covenant" contains all of the 10 Commandments -- and more.**

The **Old Testament** was written before the Birth of Jesus Christ. The **New Testament** was written after the Birth of Jesus Christ.

In the New Covenant of the Church established by Christ, the "new commandment" (I John 2:8) is given by Christ Himself to all of us who believe in Him.

Christ's teaching of this "new commandment" adds more to the teaching about love than the people understood before. The new teaching is that **believers in Christ must love as Christ Himself loves.** The new commandment is to love "as I have loved you."

Look at the icon on the front cover -- Even though the story tells us that the person who helped the injured man was a Samaritan, the person shown helping the man is Christ Himself. That is because **when we love as Christ loves, we share in His glory.** What the Good Samaritan did was to show the same kind of love as Christ has for us.

The goal of a Christian is to strive to love God and other people with the perfect love of Christ Himself which is wholly divine. Christ alone, of all persons ever born, loved with **perfect, sinless, unselfish love** -- because Jesus Christ is God (the Second Person of the Holy Trinity) and perfect man. Christ loved the Father with all of His heart, mind, soul, and strength, and He loves each of us with perfect love.

Having no sin, Jesus took our sins upon Himself "for us men and for our salvation." (Nicene Creed) In Christ, the perfect love of God became perfect in a human being -- to make it possible for all humans to share in the love and glory of God.

God gave us His love through Jesus Christ. When a person is "in Christ" he can learn to love with the kind of love that God shows to us. This is the "new commandment," that human beings, filled with the Holy Spirit, should love with the love of God Himself.

**Perfect love includes mercy and compassion for others.
Perfect love is not concerned for itself or expect a reward.
Perfect love does not discriminate among people but shows care and respect for everyone.**

THINK ABOUT IT

The lawyer in this Gospel lesson would have known a lot about the law God gave to his people through Moses. What are the commandments God gave to Moses? (Exodus 20:1-17)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Christ's parables explain to us how He summarized the law of God as a "New Covenant." It has two commandments. What are they?

1. _____

2. _____

What is the answer to the question, "And who is my neighbor?"

What can you do this week to show that you love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength?

How can you show that you love your neighbor as yourself?

Christ asks each of us to "do likewise" -- to be like the Samaritan, helping others who need help, even if they are different from you.