BEING A CHRISTIAN NEIGHBOR
On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

He answered, “‘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, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii[6] and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”
Jesus is teaching the man that “his neighbor” was anyone in need. And then Jesus tells us to “go and do the same.”

WE NEED TO SEEK THE LORD in prayer to see who he wants us to help!! Have you prayed and asked God to show you ways to be that person’s neighbor?
Why are we not a Christian neighbor?

- We don’t think of people as being our “neighbor”. He doesn’t even live on the same block. He doesn’t go to my church.
- I JUST DON’T KNOW THIS GUY!
- How did he end up being “my neighbor”?  
- It helps to define our “neighbor” the way that God does in the story of the Good Samaritan.
Second reason: We’re afraid we will be taken advantage of.

- In Proverbs we’re told that “He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and HE WILL REWARD him for what he has done.” Proverbs 19:17

- He takes it so seriously – that when we do it – He wants to reward us.
Acts 20:35

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’"

- You have to work hard at it.
- Neighboring is labor intensive.
- Neighboring is not just giving. It is long hours with lots of effort.
Ephesians 5:28-29

28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church.

- The Bible says that you love yourself ... and that is easily proved.
When we start caring about our neighbors it proves to the World that we are Disciples.

John 13:35
"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

We prove our love by helping not just when it is convenient, but by giving when it is not easy.
Will you make the decision to “Take the Commandment to Love your Neighbor as yourself Seriously?”

Are you willing to “Become a More Involved Giver?”