

## **“Love Your Neighbor as Yourself”**

**(Ephesians 5:1-2; Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 22:37-40)**

**By: Scott Spencer**

**Fort Hill Curriculum 2019**

### **Introduction**

#### **A. Lack of Self Esteem.**

1. A low self esteem is a thinking disorder where a person feels unlovable.
2. 75% of girls who have a low self esteem engage in negative conduct like cutting themselves, bullying, smoking, etc. <sup>(1)</sup>.
3. 38% of boys in middle school and high school use protein supplements and 6% admitted to using steroids <sup>(2)</sup>.
4. 7 in 10 girls believe that they are not good enough or don't measure up in some way, including their looks, performance in school and relationships with friends and family members <sup>(3)</sup>.
5. There is a real problem in our world today with young people who are miserably failing at this thing called “love”. The critical question for us today is, “How can we expect our young people to love others, when they don't even love themselves?”

#### **I. Jesus' Teachings about Love.**

1. “You have heard that it was said to love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies...” (Mt.5:43-44). Jesus would then illustrate how love behaves.
2. The Parable of “The Good Samaritan” speaks volumes about loving others without prejudices (Luke 10:25-37). **Read Story.**

3. "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself' " (Mt.22:37-39).

4. It is obvious that Jesus intended for His disciples to love others, and even the worst of mankind. This is predicated obviously on two suppositions 1). A love for God. 2). A love for Self.

5. It stands to reason that when we lack love for God and self, we will not love others!

6. How has Jesus convinced us individually and collectively to love as we should and must? He literally illustrated by His life and death!

## **II. Jesus' Example of Love.**

1. He was obedient unto His Father's Will in leaving the grandeur and glory of Heaven to come to earth, live as a bondservant and die as a falsely accused man (Php.2:5-8; Mk.14:32-36; Mt.27:1-4; Lk.23:13-15). Christ was motivated to live and die for sinners because of His love!

2. Jesus served others, including those who meant to harm Him because of His love for God and man (Jn.13:1).

## **III. Jesus' Message of Love.**

1. Jesus' message of love consists of the following: "A new commandment I give unto you, love one another as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (Jn.13:34).

2. Jesus delivered such strong message regarding love because He has proven to us, just how much He truly loves us.

3. He declared that we are of greater value to Him (Mt.6:26).

4. He set the standard regarding love by instructing us to imitate Him (Eph.5:1-2).

## Conclusion:

1. Jesus taught many power lessons about love and how it behaves.
  2. Jesus showed us what love looks like.
  3. Jesus declared in word and by deed that we are valued, event to point Him living a sinless life and dying painful death for mankind.
  4. Jesus expects me to love others as He has so loved me.
- 

1. PR Newswire Association LLC. . "New National Report Reveals the High Price of Low Self-Esteem." Dove Self-Esteem Fund. Assessed March 2, 2014.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/new-national-report-reveals-the-high-price-of-low-self-esteem-65355592.html>.

2. Quenqua, Douglas. "Muscular Body Image Lures Boys Into Gym, and Obsession." The New York Times. Accessed March 3, 2014.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/19/health/teenage-boys-worried-about-body-image-take-risks.html?pagewanted=all&>

3. Shapiro, Hannah. "Dove's Campaign for Real Beauty boosts girls' self-esteem for Back to School." Examiner.com. Accessed March 3, 2014.

<http://www.examiner.com/article/dove-s-campaign-for-real-beauty-boosts-girls-self-esteem-for-back-to-school>.