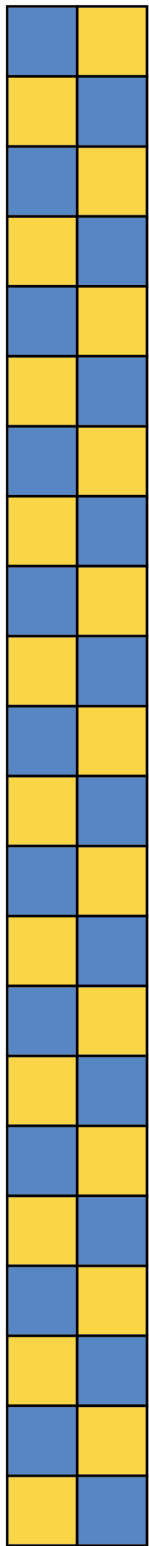


# IT'S TIME FOR DIFFERENT



## Conversation Guide Pastor Derwin L. Gray

Week 6 - It's Time to Love Our Neighbors

### SERMON RECAP:

When we love God and love ourselves, we're moved to show God's love to others. Unfortunately, people sometimes use others for what they can offer, rather than value who they are. One of the main ways for us to walk in obedience to God is to love our neighbors. We don't mean just those who live in physical proximity to you (though that's part of it!), we mean everyone.

When we love our neighbors, we show them the character of God. Jesus told His disciples that people will know us by our love for others (John 13:35). He didn't say that we would be known by our knowledge of the Bible or by our success. He made a point to remind us of the importance of love. To Jesus, love is not a good idea or hopeful approach. Instead, love is the very core of who the Christ follower is.

Sometimes loving our neighbors doesn't come naturally. When people disagree with us, betray us, or have a different worldview, it can be difficult—but we aren't left to figure it out alone. The Holy Spirit in us is what makes it possible for us to love others! None of our neighbors is beyond the grace of Jesus. Therefore, God instructs us to love all people, not because they're lovable (everyone is hard to love at times!) but because they're made in His image and He loves them.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

### Upward

- What does it mean to be made in the image of God? How does this change the way God sees humanity?
- Read Mark 12:29-31. Why does God regard these commandments as the most important? How should these verses inform the way we live?

### Inward

- As we discussed the last few sermons, we must love ourselves correctly before we can love others compassionately. Why does this order matter?

### Outward

- How can you intentionally show love to your neighbors in your community, church family, school, or work?
- Think of a time a friend, family member, neighbor, or stranger has shown you love when you didn't deserve it or were hard to love. How can you bring this heart posture to others around you?

## SOUL TATTOO:

God loves all people, even the ones we don't.

## ACTION STEP:

Pray for the neighbors God wants you to reach with the gospel.