

Good Neighbors
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Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-39

Last week we celebrated Memorial Day. While we held parades and decorated graves of those who paid the ultimate price for our security and freedom, probably the best way to honor those who served their community with their lives is to follow suit and serve our community. Maybe you will never be called to risk your life for your neighbor, but you are called to take care of your neighbor, your community, and your city. We don't need to do this in big sweeping programs or policies, but in daily interaction with one another.

Christians are especially encouraged by our Lord to love our neighbor as ourselves. Of course the debate in Jesus' day among the Pharisees was - who is my neighbor. They tried to narrow the definition in order to fulfill the law. One such Pharisee tried to trap Jesus in this debate. Jesus told him the parable of the Good Samaritan which basically teaches that everyone, especially your enemies, are your neighbor!

Yet we definitely fail at being good citizens and especially good neighbors. Lord forgive us. Fortunately, just as we get to enjoy peacetime on account of our veterans, we get to enjoy an even greater and permanent peacetime on account of the ultimate sacrifice of the Son of God. He truly loved His neighbor and even His enemy, all of humanity. He gave up everything, even His life, for us. He has won us an everlasting peacetime and has made us citizens of His everlasting kingdom! You are forgiven. You will rise again. Now go serve your neighbor.