

# The Art of Neighboring

Sermon Notes & Community Group Discussion  
Sunday, August 31, 2014

Motives Matter

John 13

We must first allow Jesus to serve us.

Jesus' love and service provides fuel that motivates our heart to love others.

Without Jesus being central, we will serve and love our neighbors for the wrong reasons:

1. Approval from others
2. Self-Approval
3. Earn something from God.
4. Control
5. Ulterior Motives

The Gospel frees us from these impure motives.

## Community Group Questions

### Discussion Questions

1. READ MARK 10:35-45 AND JOHN 13:1-8. What is God saying to you in this passage? What do you sense you need to do about it?
2. When was the last time you had a conversation with someone who seemed to have an ulterior motive? How did you know they had ulterior motives?
3. Are you comfortable sharing your story and telling people about the impact Jesus has had on your life? When was the last time you shared your story? How did the person you shared with respond?
4. "We don't love our neighbors to convert them; we love our neighbors because we're converted." Discuss how this statement brings both relief and tension.
5. Which of your "nearest ones" do you feel God calling you to spend more time with? What will this cost you? What are some practical ways you can remain motivated to continue loving them?

### RESPOND

1. Tell a friend from your community group your story of how Jesus has impacted you. Ask them for feedback (Did I use everyday language that made sense—not "churchy" words? Was the gospel clear—sin, Jesus' death & resurrection, faith?)
2. Ask someone in your neighborhood for their advice on something you're needing help. Listen to them or accept their help and see this as an opportunity to be a recipient of love.
3. Begin talking with some of your neighbors on planning a party together. This could be anything that would bring you and others that may be "strangers" in your neighborhood together to get to know one another.



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