**Growth Group Bible Study**

Loving the “Near Ones”

April 15, 2018

**Reading** Matthew 22:34-40 (Mark 12:28-34)

**Opening Questions**

1. Who was or is a favorite neighbor of yours and why?

2. How well did you do at naming the eight neighbors around you? How many did you know?

3. What reasons do we often have for not knowing your neighbors?

**Study**

1. What debate was going on at the time of Jesus that might be behind the questions with verse 36?

2. What makes Jesus’ answer (vs 37) so significant and how is it tied into OT verses such as Ex 20:1-17, Deut. 5:6-21, 6:4-9?

3. How is the command of vs 37 the cornerstone to loving our neighbors?

1 John 4:7-8, 19-20

4. In what way is the second command (“love your neighbor as yourself”) like the first command? How are they “linked”?

5. How is the command “to love your neighbor” echoed in Romans 13:8, 15:2,

1 Cor 10:24, Gal 5:14, and James 2:8

6. What does it mean to “love your neighbor as yourself”?

7. What difference does it make to see neighbor as “near one” rather than just think in terms of neighbor. Good Samaritan parable (Luke 10:25-37)

8. What “courses of action” can we take in order to love our “near ones”? Can you think of other “courses” that have helped you do that?

9. What is the ultimate context for “loving our neighbors”?

10. What do you think of the “church challenge” to have a meal with at least one non- churched neighbor by the end of 2018?

**Application**

1. Pray for opportunity and obedience in learning names of your neighbors and getting to know them.

2. Take up the “challenge” and begin to plan to have the non-churched neighbor over!