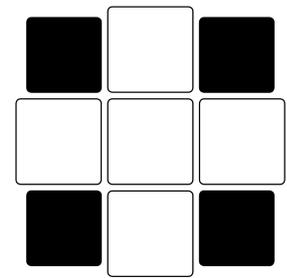


# You and Your Neighbor

Scripture: Proverbs 3:27–32

Series: **The Way of Wisdom**

Sunday, August 21, 2016



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## Overview

A good question to ask ourselves is: “What kind of neighbor am I?” Proverbs 3 explains how the way of wisdom—God’s wisdom—is related to how we treat one another. We are told to not: withhold good, delay in doing good, plan evil, fight for no reason, and envy the violent. Conversely, this means we *are* to do the opposite. **Following Jesus requires us to do good and live peaceably toward our neighbors.**

## Corroborating Texts

1 John 3:17, 1 Timothy 6:18, Luke 10:29-37, Luke 6:27-36, Leviticus 19:18, Romans 12:19, Romans 5:6-11

## Discussion Questions

1. What keeps you from doing good?
2. John Calvin said: “The Lord enjoins us to do good to all without exception, though the greater part, if estimated by their own merit, are most unworthy of it. But Scripture subjoins a most excellent reason, when it tells us that we are not to look to what men in themselves deserve, but to attend to the image of God, which exists in all, and to which we owe all honor and love.” Do you view others this way, or do you tend to look first to their worthiness and whether they “deserve” good? How does viewing others in this way—as made in God’s image and therefore deserving—change our hearts and actions?
3. Why is it a good idea to *plan* to do good? How can you practically do so this week?
4. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be others-oriented; as Pastor Joe said, to be people-prioritizers, not people-pleasers. We are primarily oriented “vertically” toward God, which should orient us “horizontally” towards others. How does being reconciled to God and in fellowship with Him change and affect the way we treat others? Conversely, when there are times you aren’t walking closely with God, e.g. not desiring and seeking Him, not repenting of sin, etc., do you find that affects how you view and treat others?
5. Look at the commands listed in Proverbs 3:27-32. How is Jesus our perfect neighbor? How does this give us hope?