

(Be)friending

LOVING GOD BY LOVING NEIGHBORS

Devotional - 10/29/2024

You've made it to the final week! If you've been following along closely, you've been praying for your neighbors by name for two months. You've looked for opportunities in your neighborhood, changed your routines, baked cookies, and invited people over for dinner. By God's kindness, I hope this journey has opened your eyes to the gospel opportunities—literally right outside your front door.

Some of these challenges have likely been difficult, and maybe you didn't manage to complete every single one. That's okay. My hope is that, by God's grace, you've begun forming a lasting habit of noticing the many ways you can befriend your neighbors for the sake of the gospel.

But I want to challenge you—this habit doesn't end just because the devotional series does. This has always been about forming daily awareness and choices that can cultivate meaningful friendships with those around you for the sake of the gospel.

Our final passage, Galatians 6:7-10, reminds us that we reap what we sow. When we scatter seeds to please the flesh, it leads to destruction; but when we sow to please the Spirit, it reaps eternal life.

Befriending—doing good to all people, as the passage says—is sowing to please the Spirit. It's one more way to worship our amazing God! But notice that the passage cautions us to endure: we must not grow weary in doing good!

Imagine a farmer who, after sowing seeds in a field, gives up shortly after. He looks out, and while two months have gone by, he believes that since he sees no crops, it was all in vain. Friends, we've been sowing for just two months. Let's not grow weary!

We must persevere in love, dear brother or sister. Keep tending to the opportunities the Lord has put in front of you. Continue to love and care for those neighbors around you. So keep inviting that neighbor over for dinner. Seek out new ways to show kindness, and when it's hard, resolve to live at peace—even if a neighbor's trash ends up in your yard. Go back to the store and make sure you're handing out the good candy this Thursday. Be the friendliest face on the block. And when it inevitably feels tiring and fruitless, remember not to grow weary in doing good. Harvest time is coming! If not tomorrow, it will surely come on the day of Christ.