

Caring For Our Brothers and Sisters

1. King Jesus Calls Us to Spiritually Care for One Another.

2. King Jesus Calls Us to Physically Care for One Another.

3. Let Us Praise the King for His Loving Care!

God tells us repeatedly that we cannot separate love for God from love for our neighbor. Love for God that is not accompanied with love for neighbor is idolatrous worship of some other god than Jesus. And love for neighbor without love for God is a treasonous counterfeit to biblical love. Our King who is now enthroned and extending His Kingdom on earth calls us to both. He enables us to do both by the power of His Spirit. Here we see His people in Antioch (who are growing together in His unity) expressing that love not just locally, but for their brothers and sisters in Christ back in Jerusalem, to the praise of their King. Let us likewise love our neighbors in His name!

James 1: 22, 27

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves ... Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”

“One of the great tragedies of the nineteenth-century liberal theology was its attempt to repudiate all supernatural aspects of the gospel, denying the virgin birth, the resurrection of Christ, and the cross as an atoning work, and trying to reduce Christianity to simply a humanitarian concern of social issues. Walter Rauschenbusche’s so-called social gospel declared that the real gospel is not Jesus’ atonement for sinners but rather the sharing of our goods with our neighbor. We do have to be concerned with those who have no home, clothes, or food, but liberal theologians tried to make the alleviation of those concerns the real mission of the church. As a result, there was a split between those who wanted to maintain the central importance of the gospel of Christ and those who wanted to redefine Christianity simply in terms of social action.

“A commitment to the real gospel of salvation carries along with it a commitment to the material welfare and wellbeing of people. True religion involves not just praying and receiving Christ, but it also involves feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the prisoners, and helping bring relief in times of calamity, such as the famine we read about in Acts. The Christians send a collection back to Jerusalem, interrupting the work of Paul and Barnabas, so that they could deliver the collection to the elders of the church in Jerusalem.” – **RC Sproul**

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

Acts records God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

Taking Gathered Worship Home

What do you do when your siblings need something? Really need something? The new family of Christ growing in Antioch heard about an impending need and so they determined to help as much as they could. Trusting our King frees us to do likewise.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 11:27-30; Second Corinthians 9:6-7; James 1:22-27.** DISCUSS, Why is loving our neighbors so significant to followers of King Jesus? What difference does it make that we are brothers and sisters in Christ with one another? How does the church in Antioch respond to the need of their siblings in Jerusalem? PRAY “Lord King, everything that we have is Yours. Help us to trust You, Jesus, as we steward all the things that You have entrusted to our care. Grow us in our love for one another by the power of the Holy Spirit. ”

Sunday Evening

Young Adults’ Fellowship at **6:00** tonight in the FCCW library.

Monday

READ **Acts 11:27-30; Genesis 4:8-12; Amos 1:1-8.** DISCUSS, What was Cain’s sin? What did he do? What did he neglect to do? How did God rebuke Damascus and Gaza for similar transgressions? PRAY, “Jesus, You are our King. We praise You and yield to Your authority. Teach us to be generous with those in need!”

Tuesday

READ **Acts 11:27-30; Galatians 2:1-10; Amos 1:9-12.** DISCUSS, What did the apostles ask Paul and Barnabas to remember? For what did God rebuke Tyre and Edom? How are you (we) remembering the poor? PRAY, “Jesus, thank You for being so generous with us. Help us to be generous with others in need too. Lord, help us to trust You to work together in caring for those in need.”

Wednesday

READ **Acts 11:27-30; Proverbs 3:9-10; Amos 1:13-2:3**. DISCUSS, How does God use His people to lovingly care for others? What happens when we neglect that privilege and responsibility? For what did God rebuke Ammon and Moab? PRAY, “Lord, teach us to honor You with our wealth. Help us to be generous with all the time, talent, and treasure You give us.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 11:27-30; Matthew 18:21-35; Amos 2:4-16**. DISCUSS, How does our understanding of God forgiving us translate to our generosity to others? How do you deal with times that you are not generous with others? How are you encouraging brothers and sisters in Christ? For what did God rebuke Judah and Israel? PRAY, “Lord, Jesus, come quickly, Lord. Help us as we wait on You.”

Friday

READ **Acts 11:27-30; Second Corinthians 9:6-7; James 1:22-27**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if God has been generous to you in faith in Christ! PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 12:1-30**. Invite others to join you for either the *live-stream or in-person service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Second Corinthians 9:6-7