

## **New Life Christian Fellowship**

Do you live next to nightmare neighbours; has someone got it in for you?  
What are you like as a neighbour and how do you react to opposition?

Jesus said: "You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst."

It is easy to love those who love us back, but not so easy to love those who hurt us. Our natural reaction is to be defensive. Jesus shows us a different way.

Jesus continued: "When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal?...." (Mathew 5:38-48)

True, genuine love costs. Jesus made the ultimate act of love when he laid his life down for us. We can receive Jesus love and take up his challenge, loving God and others by looking at every aspect of how we live our lives, considering how this affects others.

We are not perfect but the good news is God is patient, forgiving and loving. God is into restoration, not writing us off, he sees our potential. We just need to act. We can never love too much. Imagine the world if we loved God and each other.

I conclude with Micah's challenge:

"He has shown you, O man, what *is* good;  
And what does the LORD require of you  
But to do justly,  
To love mercy,  
And to walk humbly with your God?" **Micah 6:8**

(Fancy a challenge? Visit: [www.micahchallenge.org.uk](http://www.micahchallenge.org.uk) )

**New Life Christian Fellowship are meeting at 6pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September, all welcome. Call 01834 831533/07827293781 if you want to talk or would like us to pray.**