

VI. CONCLUSION: HOPING & RESTING IN GOD

Mark 4:26-29:

²⁶ The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

Core Seminars – Neighboring Week 5



Limitations & Boundaries

I. INTRODUCTION

- What happens when you try to put our previous lessons into practice and your neighbors don't seem interested?

II. WHAT IF MY NEIGHBORS DON'T WANT TO BE FRIENDS?

It may be because...

- They're too busy
- They're wary of you
- They're relationally full
- They're at a different stage of life
- They're afraid what you'll discover

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What do you do if your neighbors don't want to be friends?

1. Fight against people-pleasing (Lev. 19:18; Mk. 10:45; Lk. 10:30-37; Rom. 5:10; 1 Cor. 13; Phil. 2:3-18; 1 Jn 4:19)
2. Pray
3. Seek counsel
4. Stay

III. WHAT IF OUR FRIENDSHIP ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE?

Most of the time, your friendship with most of your neighbors will likely be at the level of polite acquaintance. That's OK. Just make sure that, when possible, it's clear that if they want more of a friendship, you're game

IV. WHAT IF THEY DON'T LIKE ME?

1. "Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all." (Rom. 12:17)
2. "You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers." (1 Thess. 2:10)

V. WHAT IF THEY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ME?

- Why boundaries can be healthy
 - Love, not self-preservation
- What healthy boundaries look like
 - Responsible *to* vs. responsible *for*