

May 1, 2015  
**The Art of Neighboring**  
*The Time Barrier*  
Pastor Rick Rufenacht



**Luke 7:36 - 48**

**We fear the **perception** about our neighbors.**

1 Sam 16:7

**We fear **rejection** by our neighbors.**

Eph 1:4-6    Gal 4:6-7    Prov 12:26

**We fear the **unknown**.**

Numbers 13    2 Tim 1:7

**Have faith**                      Mark 11

**Love yourself**                    Lev 19:18

**Pray**                                Phil 4:6-7

Fear can create barriers to loving our neighbors as ourselves.

What are you afraid of? What fears do you have?  
How have those fears limited or impacted your life?

Read Numbers 13:30 - 33.  
Sometimes fear is rational. Prudent.  
Sometimes fear is irrational. Unwise.

How can we identify fear that is prudent and draw back from fear that holds us back from what God can accomplish in the land? With our neighbors?

What kinds of fears would you consider rational when it comes to the art of neighboring? What fear do you feel are irrational?

Read Luke 5:27-32.  
Are you uncomfortable about spending time with anyone on your block? Anyone you would feel strange being seen with? Why?

What's the worst-case scenario if you engaged your neighbors? Does knowing them increase the likelihood of your worst-case scenario?

What do you think your neighbors fear about getting out and meeting you?  
What can you do to alleviate their fears?

Read Luke 12:4-7. This paragraph includes one of Jesus' main teachings on fear.  
How does Jesus encourage us to overcome our fear of others? What specific details does He give us about God's care for us that conquer our fear?

Read Matthew 5:14-16  
How does Jesus see us?  
How do we see ourselves?

Reflect on what you are and what you have done.  
Where did you come from? Where will you go?

How would your view about your help or hinder your effectiveness as a loving neighbor?

Answer the same questions from what we feel is our neighbor's perspective.

Where did you come from? Where will you go?

How does our neighbor's view help or hinder our ability to connect as a good neighbor?

Share how you have made inroads to connect with a difficult neighbor.

Answer the same questions from God's perspective.

Where did you come from? Where will you go? Who will be your neighbor?  
Ephesians 2:10, Philippians 3:12-14, Titus 3:3-7

How will God's perception of us change how we interact with others?

Think of two things you could do in the next two weeks to take one step closer to loving your neighbor as yourself.