

# The Common Good

*The Code, Week Nine*

- JESUS FIRST
- MESSY MINISTRY
- PURPOSE DRIVEN
- AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY
- EVERYBODY BELONGS
- ANYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
- SERVANT LEADERSHIP
- STRONG FAMILIES

## THE COMMON GOOD

**We engage the world with a gospel that cares for the poor, seeks freedom for the oppressed, and speaks for the marginalized.**

God made a good world filled with good things and he made people *very* good. But he also gave us our *freedom* to make choices. We chose sin, and we've proven that our nature has been corrupted in such a way that we have continued to choose sin since.

Our sin has had profound effects upon the world. Paul described "all of creation" as "groaning" in pain, waiting to finally be delivered from the effects of sin's curse.

And here is the good news...

**Jesus Christ came to save the world and everyone in it.**

We so often over-individualize this truth. We make it all about my personal deliverance from hell, because that's how modern western society has thought since the Enlightenment. But what if there is more?

**Jesus Christ, now enthroned as King, will make the world new as his Kingdom comes.**

**Revelation 21:1-5 NIV**

[1] Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. [2] I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. [3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. [4] 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death ' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'" [5] He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

**We've been taught that you escape earth to go to heaven, but God's real plan is to bring heaven to earth.**

In the meantime, we get to pray...

**Matthew 6:9-10 NIV**

[9] "This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, [10] your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**We who follow Jesus get to bring the goodness of the Kingdom of God to bear on the world around us for the common good of all people.**

Or to put it another way...

**Jesus came with a new way of life for us - the love of God and neighbor for the good of all.**

So... HOW do we do that? How do we work for the common good of all?

## Luke 10:25-37 NIV

[25] On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" [26] "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" [27] He answered, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind ' ; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " [28] "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

[29] But **he wanted to justify himself**, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" [30] In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. [31] A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. [32] So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

[33] **But a Samaritan**, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. [34] He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. [35] The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

[36] "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" [37] The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

There are TWO vital questions for us to ask...

## 1. Who is my neighbor?

Hint: It's EVERYONE!

## 2. How far am I willing to go to love them?

The ONE thing that matters most to the survival and success of our Christian witness is our devotion to **loving our neighbors**.

As long as we do only the bare minimum and put our own needs first, we'll lose our witness. But when we seek the **common good** of all people, our witness will be powerful.