

JESUS, SHOULD IT BE RESPECT YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF NOT LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF?

A QUOTE FROM JONATHAN HAIDT

“Jesus commands his followers to love God, using the same words as Moses (“With all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might,” MATTHEW, 22:37, in referring to DEUTERONOMY 6:5). Jesus’ second commandment is to love one another: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (MATTHEW 22:39). But what can it mean to love others as one loves oneself? The psychological origins of love are in attachment to parents and sexual partners. We do not attach to ourselves; we do not seek security and fulfillment in ourselves. What Jesus seems to mean is that we should value others as much as we value ourselves; we should be kind and generous even to strangers and even to our enemies” (The Happiness Hypothesis -Jonathan Haidt).

This quote is important for it shows that there is no room for modern ideas about self-love in it. Despite first appearances, the commandment forbids these ideas.

RESPECT THY NEIGHBOUR

Love thy neighbour as yourself is the Christian sugar used to bait converts and keep them. The teaching is fraught with hypocrisy, absurdity and impracticality. Respect your neighbour as yourself would be better even if some have doubts about its practicality. That Jesus, if the gospels speak the truth, didn’t say we must respect our neighbour as ourselves shows he was incapable of clarity and commonsense.

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