We often, mistakenly, think that Christian maturity is primarily based on:

- Knowledge
- Position
- Volume
- Following the rules

Luke 10:25-26

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?"

Luke 10:27-28

And he answered, "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

Luke 10:29-30

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.

Luke 10:31-33

Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.

Luke 10:34-35

He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'

Luke 10:36-37

Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

We neglect love when:

- 1. We limit it with religion
- 2. We become Exclusive

"Brain researchers have found that we are most likely to actually help someone, not simply when we see them suffer, but when we also consider ourselves "attached" to them...

Seeing suffering does not move me to act if I think of the person as "him" But when I think of that person as part of "us" part of "me" then I am moved to bless."

John Ortberg

Luke 6:37

"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven...

Luke 6:38

...give, and it will be given to you.

Good measure, pressed down,
shaken together, running over, will
be put into your lap. For with the
measure you use it will be
measured back to you."

Luke 6:39-40

He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

Luke 6:41

Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

Luke 6:42

How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

We neglect love when:

3. We remain Superficial

The Church is founded on the costly, inclusive love of Jesus.

"The health, long term mission, and viability of the church are not going to be determined by those who gather on Sunday morning. The future of the church will be determined by the depth of its disciples.

People in communities through small groups... beyond Sunday morning are our future. They are our future because in these settings mature, countercultural disciples are made."

Ed Stetzer

Stop being an observer and become a neighbour! Get in a group!