

Can I Ask That?

Truly living requires truly [LOVING](#).

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

1 Corinthians 14:33-35

³³ For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord's people. ³⁴ Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. ³⁵ If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.

Genesis 1:28

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

IMMIGRATION is an issue.

IMMIGRANTS are people.

Leviticus 19:33-34

³³ *“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. ³⁴ The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.*

Matthew 25:37-40

³⁷ *“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’*

⁴⁰ *“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’*

SO WHAT?

Galatians 3:26-28

²⁶ *So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:20

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jesus is our Lord, He establishes the **ORDER** of all things.

Hebrews 13:1-2 (NLT)

¹ *Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. ² Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!*

Acts 2:17-18 (NLT)

¹⁷ *‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy.*

NOTES:

"If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself."

- Saint Augustine

On Being For Women:

- <https://www.wesleyan.org/ecd/women-ministry-leadership>

- <https://www.wesleyan.org/a-wesleyan-view-of-women-in-ministry-239>

On Being For Immigrants:

- <https://www.wesleyan.org/a-wesleyan-view-of-immigration>

- <https://www.wesleyan.org/a-wesleyan-call-to-a-more-permanent-immigrant-solution>



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Now What? [For Further Reflection]:

In regards to women...

:: Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.

:: What are your initial observations?

:: How does this Scripture challenge our thinking about how God actually works in the world? And who He chooses to use?

:: How does the equality before the Cross of Christ remove our grounds for disparity?

:: How did Jesus repeatedly challenge 'cultural norms' in his interaction with women?

In regards to immigrants...

:: C.S. Lewis said that humans are the "holiest object presented to your senses." How does this truth help us to begin to treat our neighbors in God's image?

:: What are 2 or 3 goals that you find immigrants of the past and present share?

:: Hearing someone's story gives us a relational connection and context. How does hearing the stories of immigrants help us see the image of God in current circumstances, stories and people?

Christ in Culture...

:: In his daily life, Jesus showed personal hospitality to outcasts; ethnically with the Samaritan woman (John 4), religiously with the Roman centurion (Matthew 8), and socially with the woman caught in adultery (John 8). What can we do to show Christ-like hospitality both personally and corporately across these types of barriers?

How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

***Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness.
I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I recognize
you as Savior; and I choose to respond to you as my Risen LORD.
Help me to follow you all the days of my life.
In Your name, Amen.***

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].
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