

# REFLECTION

**Presbytery of Riverside**

**October 16, 2018**

The Presbytery of Riverside Discernment Team spent time at its October meeting reflecting on passages from Matthew, Mark, and Luke and how we are embodying the commandment to “love God and our neighbor.”

## **Mark 12:28-34 CEB**

One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus replied, “The most important one is *Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* The second is this, *You will love your neighbor as yourself.* No other commandment is greater than these.” The legal expert said to him, “Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one’s strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, “You aren’t far from God’s kingdom.”

We reflected on this text and asked, “Who is our neighbor? Do we even need to identify our neighbor or should we just love them? If we are to love our neighbor as ourselves, how do we love our neighbor if we don’t love ourselves? What inhibits our ability to know our neighbors? What can the Presbytery of Riverside do to enable and equip our churches to reach out in love to our neighbors?”

As we continue in the discernment process we invite you to pray and reflect on what God is calling us to be as we work toward building the kin[g]dom of God on earth as it is in heaven. Please feel free to share any reflections with the Discernment Team at [riversidepresbytery.info@riversidepresbytery.com](mailto:riversidepresbytery.info@riversidepresbytery.com)

In Christ,  
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Vice-Moderator