



Matthew 22:37–39 (NIV)

“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

4 Ways Churches Relate to Their Communities:

- Indifference
- Hostility
- Imitation
- Transformation

Rules of Engagement
Jeremiah 29:4-7

Jeremiah 29:4-7 (NIV)

This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

- You are where you are because God put you there.

Verse 4 – "...to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon."

Ephesians 1:11-12 (NIV)

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

- Get involved with the people around you.

Verses 5-6: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease."

Matthew 7:12 (NASB)

"In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you."

Philippians 2:3-5 (HCSB)

Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look out, not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus

- Work for the good of your community.

Verse 7a – "Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you."

Proverbs 3:29 (HCSB)

"Do not plan evil against your neighbor who dwells trustingly beside you."

Proverbs 14:21 (ESV)

"Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner."

- Pray for your community regularly and faithfully.

Verse 7b – "Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

1 Timothy 2:1 (NIV)

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone."

2 Kings 7:3-4 (ESV)

Now there were four men who were lepers at the entrance to the gate. And they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? If we say, 'Let us enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. So now come, let us go over to the camp of the Syrians. If they spare our lives we shall live, and if they kill us we shall but die."

2 Kings 7:5-7 (ESV)

So they arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians. But when they came to the edge of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no one there. For the Lord had made the army of the Syrians hear the sound of chariots and of horses, the sound of a great army, ... So they fled away in the twilight and abandoned their tents, their horses, and their donkeys, leaving the camp as it was, and fled for their lives.

2 Kings 7:8-9 (ESV)

And when these lepers came to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent and ate and drank, and they carried off silver and gold and clothing and went and hid them. Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news. Now therefore come; let us go and tell the king's household."