**Further Reading in Neighbor-Love**

Andrew DeCort, PhD

Simon Weil, "Reflections on the Right Use of School Studies with a View to the Love of God," in *Waiting for God* (New York, NY: Putnam’s Sons, 1951), 105-116.

This short essay insightfully describes how even the most tedious tasks in our daily lives can be embraced as practices of learning how to love God and our neighbors as ourselves. What I love about Weil’s perspective is that she thinks *everything* can be done and valued as training in love.

Martin Luther King, Jr., *Strength to Love* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2010), chapters 3-5.

These three sermons from Dr. King briefly encapsulate an enormous amount of the wisdom and passion of neighbor-love throughout Christian history. They can be fruitfully read and reread as a primer in neighbor-love.

Wayne Gordon, *Who Is My Neighbor? Lessons Learned from a Man Left for Dead* (Grand Rapids, MI: BakerBooks, 2010).

This beautiful book offers forty meditations on who our “neighbors” really are and what it means to practically love them as ourselves. The writing is accessible and compelling, and comes directly out of Wayne Gordon’s decades of pastoral ministry in Chicago. This book is perfect for a personal or small-group journey focused on neighbor-love.

Carter Lindberg, *Love: A Brief History through Western Christianity* (Malden, MA: 2008).

This book doesn’t focus specifically on neighbor-love but love more generally in Christian history. But it provides an accessible, eye-opening introduction to how Christians have thought about love and transformed culture across the centuries.

Garth L. Hallett, *Christian Neighbor-Love: An Assessment of Six Rival Versions* (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1989).

This is an academic study of “six rival versions” of how neighbor-love has been interpreted in Christian ethics. This book a bit dry and abstract, but it is attempting to do something important: to define what neighbor-love truly means and requires, so it doesn’t remain an open-ended feeling or idea that doesn’t really change our lives. If you want to go deeper into the theory of neighbor-love, this is a good place to start.

Frederick Simmons and Brian Sorrels, *Love and Christian Ethics: Tradition, Theory, and Society* (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2016).

This is the most up-to-date academic resource on the Christian ethics of love. This volume includes chapters on some of the major thinkers in Christian history, as well as some of the fundamental issues intersecting the ethics of love. Note that the essays are intended for a scholarly audience and may be inaccessible for the general reader.

David Nirenberg, “Christendom and Islam,” in *Neighboring Faiths: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism in the Middle Ages and Today* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2014).

This chapter gives a fascinating – sometimes encouraging, sometimes heartbreaking – window into Christianity and Islam as “neighboring faiths.” There is much to learn from past successes and failures.

*A Common Word: Muslims and Christians on Loving God and Neighbor*, edited by Miroslav Volf, Ghazi bin Muhammad, and Melissa Yarrington (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010).

This book provides a rich dialogue between Christians and Muslims on the meaning and importance of neighbor-love in their respective faiths.

Bob Goff, *Everybody Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People* (Nashville, TN: Nelson, 2018).

This book explores loving enemies – “difficult people” – in today’s world through whimsical storytelling and accessible biblical interpretation. Goff’s thesis is simple and powerful: “[Jesus] wants us to do what He said, and He said He wants us to love everybody, always” (p. 6).