

## "AND IF IT WAS ME... IN HER PLACE?"

*"A new girl arrived **in my class**. She was a repeating student affected by polio, a disease that prevents her from walking properly.*

*I felt that **Jesus** put her next to me, so that I could show her my love. I tried to get to know her better and, with my friends, we started to help her in whatever way we could.*

*For her birthday we got her a pen and sang "Happy Birthday" to her. Every morning, we take turns to help her go up the stairs and during gym class, we stay behind with her, joining her in the exercises suited to her needs.*

*At the beginning she couldn't really copy everything that was on the blackboard or work on activities on her own. But now, with our help, she's writing faster and can study better. The teachers realized that she has improved and her mother can't stop thanking us every time we go to visit.*

*She lives far away, and when I go to visit her, it takes me all afternoon. But I feel it's not a waste of time and in the evening, I feel great joy in my heart.*

*When we went on a field trip, we insisted that she come, too. We were all available to give her a hand throughout the walk. At the end of the day, she was very tired, but happy, too. It was the very first time she'd ever gone on a field trip!*

*And now she no longer says she can't walk. She tries to do everything and very often she manages. Her doctors are amazed at her progress, and can't explain it. But our class knows the secret! **It's the fruit of Love.**"*

L.M.

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For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**"

(Gal 5:14)

What did the Apostle Paul mean when he said this?



He is telling us what is the basis of our Christian way of life and what should always inspire us: **love of neighbor.**

Yes, but I already know that! I know I shouldn't hurt others.



Good for you! Those who love, however, don't just avoid doing bad things. They're open to others. They want what's good for them. They do good things. They give of themselves, even giving their own life for their neighbor.



That's why St. Paul says that love of neighbor sums up all the other commandments.

The commandments... I should review them. The first one is ...



If the whole of the law is summed up in love of neighbor, the other commandments must be there to enlighten and guide us in finding ways to love others, even when life gets complicated and confusing.

Why doesn't the Apostle mention loving God?



Because when we love our neighbor we are showing God that we love him! Loving God means doing his will. And his will is that we love every person we meet.

From a commentary by Chiara Lubich – Adapted by the Gen 3 Center



## Memory Card

**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR  
AS YOURSELF.**

WHAT IS THE MEASURE  
OF THIS LOVE?



**LET'S PUT OUR NEIGHBOR  
ON THE SAME LEVEL AS  
OURSELVES.**

THIS WILL BRING ABOUT A  
COMPLETE CHANGE  
IN OUR WAY OF THINKING  
.AND DOING THINGS.

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## In Action:

I will share with everyone  
an experience on how I loved  
my neighbor.

[genmag.usa@gmail.com](mailto:genmag.usa@gmail.com)

G3N

CUT AND FOLD IN HALF, YOU CAN USE THE INSIDE OF THIS CARD TO WRITE YOUR COMMENTS AND THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS WORD OF LIFE.

CUT OUT THIS PART, WHEN YOU FOLD IT, IT BECOMES A USEFUL CARD TO TAKE AROUND WITH YOU.