

“Then the Lord asked..., Where is your brother...? ... “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” Genesis 4:9

Are we responsible for each other? In what ways are we to be the keeper of each other?

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no evil to the neighbor.” Romans 13:9-10

God created us not to be as individual persons to stand on our own and muddle through by ourselves. God created us to be people, to journey together, to support and cherish one another amidst the trials and joys of life. God created us with unique talents and abilities, for no one person can do everything, but together there is nothing that we can't achieve.

“Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another.” Romans 13:8

God calls us not to just look after one another, but to keep one another from sin, from violence, from spiritual and physical harm. That doesn't mean we are to simply monitor someone's life 24/7. It means we are to look out for the welfare of each other; to do this we must start with the way we treat one another. Are the relationships we have with each other honest and sincere? Do we sin against our neighbor and then turn around and expect them not to sin against us?

“Let your love for one another be made known in your words, actions and prayers.” Unknown

Why do we have concern for those who are a world away from us, who have a different culture with different ideas? Why do we care for their wellbeing? We are responsible for each other, even if the only thing that we can do is pray for them. There are many countries that are torn apart by war and hatred; we can help with financial aid and raising awareness to their situations. But the most important thing that we can do is to pray for them, for their wellbeing and their protection. We can pray that people can live in peace. It is in praying for someone else with all our heart that we can truly fulfill our responsibility for each other, as the children of God.

**“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”
Matthew 18:20**

God is present wherever love is found. When we have love in our hearts, even when it seems impossible to love, God is ever present in that love. Are we able to look past the surface and with love see the beauty and dignity of each and every soul?

*Father,
You have made us responsible for each other in every
way and in all things.
Help me to be attentive to the needs of all people, my
people, to whom I belong.
May all hatred be met with love and may peace reign
true in the hearts of Your people.
Grant that I may be the start of that peace and
facilitator of Your mercy.
May my heart grow in fondness for all my people
and may my every day be lived for more than myself.
Amen*