

# taboo

A Biblical perspective on  
things we don't talk about

**Immigration (LEVITICUS 19:18, 33-34)**

**Taboo sermon series**

**By Pastor David Hillis, 07.14.19**

**BIG IDEA:** Loving our neighbors means treating *all* those around us, regardless of race, ethnicity or citizenship status, as we treat ourselves.

***God's heart & perspective toward the immigrant:***

1. **They bear the image of God, too** ([Genesis 1:26-28](#), [James 3:9](#))
2. **God loves them & has a particular concern for their welfare** ([Deuteronomy 10:18](#), [Psalm 146:9](#))
3. **God holds immigrants to the same standards as citizens** ([Deuteronomy 1:16](#), [5:14](#); [Exodus 12:49](#); [Hebrews 13:2](#); [Numbers 9:14](#), [15:16](#); [Romans 13:1-3](#))

***God's expectations of us toward immigrants:***

1. **We are to love them as we love ourselves** ([Deuteronomy 24:19-21](#); [Exodus 22:21](#), [23:9](#); [Leviticus 19:18](#), [33-34](#); [Malachi 3:5](#))
2. **We are to treat them humanely, protect and when necessary, provide for them** ([Deuteronomy 10:18-19](#), [14:28-29](#), [24:19-21](#), [27:19](#); [Jeremiah 22:3](#); [Leviticus 23:22](#); [Matthew 25:31-46](#); [Psalm 94:6](#); [Zechariah 7:10](#))

**NEXT STEP:** How might your perspective on immigration become more aligned with God's? Are there any ways you sense God may be wanting to change your heart?

**FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:**

1. This week in *TABOO* Pastor Dave talked about what God has to say, based on the Bible, about the immigrants among us. Look back through the sermon notes above and spend some time this week reading through the Scripture references in each section. As you do, ask how He wants to challenge you to better love your neighbor and show unconditional love. Don't rush this exercise, but spend time praying and considering it, expecting God to speak to you through it.
2. This week, Pastor Dave provided a wealth of articles, videos and other resources on the subject. Take some time to look through those. Notice what stirs you emotionally in one way or another, and ask God why. Links to a booklet from the Evangelical Immigration Table, a position statement from the Evangelical Covenant Church, and a Bible reading plan all can help form a more informed, Biblical theology on immigration.

3. In our main passage today in [Leviticus 19:18,33-34](#), God calls us to view immigrants as our neighbors and love them as we love ourselves. In what ways do you find you struggle a bit with this command? Be honest before God, listing the ways you feel confused, frustrated, angry or apathetic. Turn these feelings into honest prayers to God.
4. Next week, we will be looking at the taboo topic of abuse. Consider again the passage references in many messages in this series from [Genesis 1:26-28](#), that speaks to all humanity being God's image bearers in the world. How might that relate to God's perspective on the abused (physical/sexual/emotional/spiritual abuse, or neglect)? Which of these forms of abuse stirs you the most? The least? What Scriptures can you find that speak to how God reacts to the abused, and the abusers in our world? Did any of Scriptures these surprise you? Share your thoughts with Pastor Dave this week!

#### ONLINE RESOURCES:

- **Immigration in the news.** Read more about the stories Pastor Dave referenced in the opening to his message:
  - [Central America's Violent Northern Triangle](#): Three small countries where violence and injustice spin out of control make up the bulk of those currently arriving at the US southern border, according to this report from the Council on Foreign Relations. A lot of this violence is now being targeted at women and children, who are the most vulnerable, and have become regular victims of rape, kidnapping, torture, or murder, and now women and children are showing up at the border at record numbers. To better understand why people from the Northern Triangle feel they must flee for their lives, see a short [VIDEO](#) from The Guardian, or this [REPORT](#) from Amnesty International.
  - [Martinez family from El Salvador dead](#): Dad and baby daughter die trying to cross the Rio Grande a few days ago.
  - [Scott Walker](#): Arizona teacher charged with helping immigrants recently had a hung jury, but faces a possible retrial.
  - [What's going on with immigration detention centers?](#): This article from *Relevant Magazine* gives their recent history & details.
  - [5 surprising facts about illegal immigration](#). Do any of these facts surprise you?
- **How can Christians discern and advocate for some sort of sound immigration policy?** Below are a few resources that might help:
  - **The Evangelical Immigration Table** has come up with a booklet that offers the best ideas of Christian leaders from across the country: [Thinking Biblically about Immigrants & Immigration Reform Guide](#).
  - **Tucson, like some other border cities, is facing problem housing migrants.** Watch this [VIDEO from local news station KOLD](#).
  - **The Evangelical Covenant Church**, the faith tradition for which Grace Community is a part, has had a mutually discern position on immigration since 2004: [Immigration position paper \(2004\)](#).
  - **40 Days of Scripture & Prayer around Immigration Bible plan**: learn more about what Scripture has to say on the issue with this Bible reading plan: [I Was a Stranger](#)..

**NEXT WEEK:** TABOO topic **ABUSE**