

Love your neighbor as yourself

By [Bill McKibben](#)

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*What's the gospel in seven words? We asked theologians, pastors and others both to answer this question and to expand on this in a few sentences. To see all the responses together as they're posted, bookmark [this page](#). Add your own version [here](#). --Ed.*

Love your neighbor as yourself.

This always seemed like hard moral advice that very few of us were really able to follow. But in recent times its meaning seems clearer. Loving mainly ourselves--which is the definition of the high consumer society we inhabit--means creating a world that stinks. It's a world that is getting steadily hotter, where almost all of us feel increasingly economically insecure. Jesus had it figured out: It only works when we're in it together.