
GOODNESS

Practice Guide

PRACTICE 1 - MORAL PROXIMITY

In order for us to step into the brokenness and join God in His work of redemption, we must direct our focus. We are finite creatures with limited capacity. There are areas we must stop caring about, areas we must care about and pray about, and areas we must step in and work to affect change. To put it plainly - because we are limited creatures, we simply cannot do everything there is to do to care for those in need.

Moral proximity is a principle many theologians use to better understand the consistent commands and invitations in Scripture to care for those in need around us. The closer the moral proximity of those in need, the greater the moral obligation to help. Moral proximity does not simply refer to geography (though that can be part of the equation) but also refers to how connected we are to someone by virtue of familiarity, kinship, space or time.

This week, use the steps below to discern with the Holy Spirit your area(s) of moral proximity.

Use these steps to map out a plan to step into the brokenness around you:

1. Take out a blank sheet of paper and write out a list of all of the things you currently care about in life and in the world. (ex: family, friendships, church, poor, education, foster children, etc)
2. Write a second list of all of the things you are told to care about by those around you by news, social media, or others. (ex: global crisis, politics, "following" on social media, celebrity gossip, etc)
3. Write a third list of all of the things you know you should care about Biblically but do not. (ex: the poor, the sojourner, the immigrant, widows, orphans, non-Christians, etc)
4. Now, on a separate sheet of paper, copy over the circle diagram below.
5. Spend time discussing which parts of your lists should go where with your Community Group.
6. Spend time in prayer for your heart to be moved towards the area(s) in which you should care, pray, and act.



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