

“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

(Leviticus 19:33-34 NIV)

Leviticus 19 includes two sweeping commands, both of which are repeated in the New Testament: “Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy,” (Lev. 19:2; 1 Pet. 1:16) and “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Lev. 19:18; Mat. 22:39)

Sometimes our churches limit holiness and love to our interactions with other individuals, but this chapter describes a wide array of practical actions on an individual level and a societal level. To serve God well, says Leviticus 19, we must be holy and loving as we interact with others in politics, communications, worship, business, agriculture, family life, and national immigration policy.

As people from all over the world immigrate to Canada and the United States, churches must “love them as yourself” not only in the ways we treat the refugee next door, but also in our advocacy for just immigration laws.

Too often, racism has given special advantages to people of Northern European descent and caused untold harm to indigenous peoples and to Black and brown people who have come from all over the world.

Except for Indigenous people, all of us are immigrants or descendants of immigrants, and as Christians our citizenship is in heaven. Immigrants, especially those who are people of color, have been and will continue to be vulnerable to injustice. The God we serve commands us to be holy by loving immigrants as ourselves.

The artwork for this bulletin was created by 12-year-old Lucas Glazier



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#### RACE RELATIONS

Race Relations has been mandated by the synod of the Christian Reformed Church to design, organize, and implement programs and resources that will assist the entire denomination in eliminating the causes and effects of racism within the body of believers and throughout the world. On this special Sunday, your prayers and offerings for this ministry enable and empower Race Relations to boldly continue this work. Please give with a cheerful heart.



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