

If you were left wondering how to apply the “image of God” to your life after reading the last newsletter, you can thank my wife for this week’s newsletter—my heartfelt attempt to provide concrete examples of what a worldview rooted in the image of God—in ALL people—looks like in day-to-day living.

When my wife and I bought our first house in 2016 we did not know our neighbors across the fence who lived on a golf estate. One day a section of the fence fell down in a storm, allowing us to introduce ourselves. We worked together to repair the fence and over time they invited us to their home. To understand the optics of this interaction, imagine two couples getting together with the following identifiers: Muslim and Christian; 30+ years apart in age, and socioeconomically from different classes.

Using today’s unfortunate “standard” of racial, cultural, religious, socioeconomic, and political apartheid, our relationship with Ahmed and Marwa (pseudonyms) isn’t supposed to work—but it does. The reason it does is that Ahmed and Marwa love us as family, and we love them just the same. When the fence broke in 2016, Ahmed and Marwa did not view us as a transaction they needed to complete so they could get back to their lives—if that was so they would have repaired the fence and that would have been the end of our interactions. Instead, their actions showed that they were willing to make room for us in their homes and in their hearts.

The Temple Takeaway:

Is there a “storm” in your life that has knocked down a “fence”? Who is on the other side? How can you relate to these people in ways that are less transactional and more relational? For inspiration, listen to “[Make room](#)” by Jonathan McReynolds, and meditate on how making room for God makes room in your life for people.