

Neighbor

The word neighbor has a friendly house-like connotation. The "good neighbor policy" is a common expression that conveys sociability, friendly assistance, and trust. "Love thy neighbour as thyself" (Leviticus XIX, 18) is the admonition to Christians in biblical writings. These expressions are all well meaning and denote the ideal significance of the word.

However, in spite of that, the meaning and judgment of the word requires the ability to determine wisely in matters affecting action; good sense; discretion. The real association with neighbor in our present society dictates other considerations.

First, if you reflect on man's inhuman ability to harm, it is disturbing to realize that the significance of the word is a myth. Our society is in constant change. Laws are enacted to regulate every action in our daily lives. These however only outline the problems of society and can not force their observance.

There was a time when it was needless to lock your doors or be afraid to leave your house.

(2) Neighbor
at night. Now, serious crime
reaches into every neighborhood.
Vandalism leaves its mark
in our most respected places.

Humans are endowed
with personal characteristics.
They are intelligent, mentally
unbalanced, decent, respectful,
immoral, amiable, arrogant,
young and old, etc. The
environmental condition of
the neighborhood seems to be
the factor involving the amount
of toleration anticipated. Close
quarters of neighbors require
more give and take for friendly
cooperation. A change to a
spacious living place is much
more desirable as the proximity
to neighbors is less. Affluent
society seeks an estate or ranch
where privacy is the demand.

In the "good old days" if a
person found he was in need of
something he could go to his
neighbor and seek assistance.
Today, subsistence in support of
the public is available to those
in need and welfare is provided
by the state. Modern communication
such as telephone and the automobile
has placed the request for emergency

(3) Neighbor
practically at one's finger tips.

Through tradition and a desire for peaceful co-existence the word neighbor conjures a sense of belonging. The old order has changed, never the less, and, more often one does not know his neighbor. Our transient society gives some allowance for this, but, most people make acquaintances with other than neighbors.

The dictionary gives various uses for the word neighbor. The interpretation of the meaning as I use it is, "one who dwells next door to another". Other ethical terms have been alienated and now have doubtful meaning.