

## SAYINGS OF THE FATHERS

### LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

Do good to your neighbour. Do something outward, and when it is done with diligence it will turn out to be inward as well. But once having done something good, don't become proud, but thank God: 'by Thy blessing, O Lord, have I accomplished this'. (St Nectary of Optina)

An Athonite elder said: We suffer because we have no love. He who does not love has no peace, even if they were to put him in Paradise. (from An Athonite Gerontikon)

You mustn't wage your Christian struggle with sermons and arguments, but with true secret love. When we argue, others react. When we love people, they are moved and we win them over. When we love, we think that we offer something to others, but in reality we are the first to benefit. (Elder Porphyrios, + 1991)

If you love your neighbor, then all of heaven will love you. If you are united in spirit with your fellow creatures, then you will be united with God and all the company of heaven; if you are merciful to your neighbor, then God and all the angels and saints will be merciful to you. If you pray for others then all of heaven will intercede for you. The Lord our God is holy; be holy yourself also. (St. John of Kronstadt)