

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT LOVE IS

Matthew 22:26-29 (LB)

- If we want our lives to count, we have to “focus” them because we don’t have time for everything.
- God put us here on earth to do 2 primary things – to learn how to love Him and love others (Matthew 22:36-39).
- Life is one GIANT lesson about LOVE rather than being about acquisitions, accomplishments or achievements.
- Question – “What are the 3 ‘Laws of Love’ and how can they help me become a great ‘lover’ in life?”

BECOMING A GREAT LOVER INVOLVES UNDERSTANDING:

THE BEST USE OF LIFE IS LOVE

- God says that learning how to love should be our #1 priority, objective, ambition and life purpose (Matthew 22:36-39).

· Question – “Why does God say that focusing our lives on loving Him and others is more important than anything else?”

Love Is More Important Than Anything Else:

· LOVE VALIDATES MY FAITH

- To get to Heaven we have to validate our identity or prove that we really do know God.
- “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” (1 John 4:8 NIV)
- “If we say we love God, but hate others, we are liars. For we cannot love God, whom we have not seen, if we do not love others, whom we have seen.” (1 John 4:20 TEV)

· LOVE INTEGRATES MY LIFE

- When love is our “dominant life principle” it draws every aspect of our life together.
- When our lives are fragmented or segmented into different parts it demonstrates that we lack integrity.
- “Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything completely together.” (Colossians 3:14 CEV)

· LOVE COMPENSATES FOR MY SIN

- When we “blow it” in life, God first wants to know if we love His Son, Jesus Christ.
- “Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:8 NLT)
- Our love for Jesus causes the Lord to forgive us all the sins we’ve committed.
- “God wiped out the charges that were against us for disobeying the Law . . . He took them away and nailed them to the cross.” (Colossians 2:14 CEV)

- Being forgiven by the Lord gives us the incentive and power to “let others off the hook.”
- More important than being perfect is loving God with all our heart.

· LOVE REVERBERATES FOREVER

- “Three things will continue forever; faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13)

- If we want a lasting legacy, we must learn how to really love others.

- God says that “life without love” is a wasted and worthless life.

- “No matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love.” (1

Corinthians 13:3 Msg)

- We often get preoccupied with things that are of lesser importance than love and relationships because we give “first class allegiance” to “second class causes.”

- Life is not about achievements – it is about love!

BECOMING A GREAT LOVER INVOLVES UNDERSTANDING:

THE BEST EXPRESSION OF LOVE IS TIME

· “We must show love through actions that are sincere, not through empty words.” (1 John 3:18 GW)

· Question – “What is the most desired gift of love?”

· Giving our attention to someone is the greatest gift we can give because we are giving them our most precious resource – time.

· Jesus said that the essence of a true loving relationship is how much we give of ourselves to that person.

· “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” (Galatians 5:6 NIV)

· “I’ve come to believe that the speed of society is as much responsible for the problems of person and social dysfunction as any other single factor. Virtually all of our relationships are damaged by hurry. We’re always in a hurry. Many families are being starved to death by velocity. We walk fast, we talk fast, we eat fast. Then announce, ‘Sorry, I’ve gotta run!’ God, I suspect, doesn’t fit any better into our break neck schedules than our children do.” (Dr. Richard Swenson)

· “Busyness destroys relationships. It substitutes shallow frenzy for deep friendships. Busyness feeds the ego but it starves those who love us. It fills the calendar, but fractures the family.” (Chuck Swindoll)

· “Live a life filled with love for others, following the example of Christ, who loved you and gave Himself as a sacrifice to take away your sins.” (Ephesians 5:2 NLT)

· Question – “Who is God leading me to better share my love with by spending more TIME with them this week?”

BECOMING A GREAT LOVER INVOLVES UNDERSTANDING:

THE BEST TIME TO LOVE IS NOW

· Some people need to start loving, living for the Lord and giving now.

· “Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone.” (Galatians 6:10 NLT)

· “Use every chance you have for doing good.” (Eph 5:16)

· “Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it. Never tell your neighbors to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now.” (Proverbs 3:27-28 GNB)

· Question – “Who do I need to show love to TODAY?”

· We should never ever postpone showing love to others.

· If love is the essence of life, our #1 goal in life and the reason God put us here on Earth, then loving God and others should always take priority over everything else.

· “Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire love. Make it your aim, your great quest . . .” (1

Corinthians 14:1 Amp)

· The Goal for 40 DAYS OF LOVE is to become more loving in our lives.

· **HOMEWORK**

- Take 5, 10 or 15 minutes every day to talk with each of your family members, looking them in the face and listening to them.

- Spend some time with the person(s) God has placed your life (apologizing, empathizing, dialoguing or just laughing together)