

LOV

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Forming the Foundation:

Mark 12:28-34

- **28** One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” **29** “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **30** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ **31** The second is like it, namely this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

“Love is a many splendored thing.” –Frank Sinatra

- *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”*
Paul of Tarsus, 1st Corinth 13:4-7.....Kind of a lot, huh?
- One definition of LOVE cannot completely define LOVE.
- Love from a spiritual perspective cannot be defined. At best it can merely be *experienced*much like God.

God IS Love & Love IS God

1st John 4:16



Love is our Cause & our Goal

Our purpose as disciples of Christ is to express God (Love) in the world, to the world, to transcend the world.

- “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us & sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins...We love, BECAUSE He FIRST loved us” 1 John 4:10,19
- “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:35
- “God so loved the WORLD, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Triune God, Triune Love

When asked what the most important commandment of all was, Jesus replied with “Love”, and gave 3 focuses in which we are to direct that love through action. These 3 focal points can be aligned with the diagram of the trinity, and much about *how to love* can be learned from each expression expressed from the godhead;

- ✓ Father god-----love god
- ✓ Son of god-----love people
- ✓ Spirit of god-----love yourself

Father god: Loving God

“.....And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.....”

□ It has been said that imitation is the highest form of flattery. God our Father has created all that we know and see from his mere words and we see his imprint on creation! In like manner and as stated previously, our destiny is to express God in all sorts of glorious and wonderful ways.

□ We are the Imago Dei. The express Image of God. Within our *hearts, souls, and minds*, God has placed a passion, a purpose, and a plan and he would love nothing more than to see you bring it to pass through the *strength* of your living in your life. Jer. 29:11

□ Ex-press, or press outwards, bring into sight the divine plan which God has already established within you. God loves to see his children BE like Him. So get in your prayer closet, get in your Bible, get in the face of God and reflect his image. What are you waiting for? Show Him that you love Him. Go make Daddy proud!

Son of god: Loving People

“.....Love your neighbor.....”

✦ What are we waiting for? Not only should we show God our love by manifesting his will in the Earth, but also the Bible teaches that the people of the world are becoming restless waiting for that manifestation as well! Ref. Romans 8:19

✦ So what does Jesus teach us about loving people? We need only look at his life and see the boundless list of causes he championed, accomplishments he achieved, and lessons he taught for the advancement of people. Especially the disenfranchised, disinherited, and dispossessed. Ref. Matt. 25:31-40

✦ Loving your neighbor requires that you Love ALL people that are in your area of contact or influence. In fact the word “neighbor” is made up of two English words, “near” & “by”. The truth of the matter is that not every neighbor is your friend, but we must love them unconditionally anyway. Ref. Matt 5:43-48, Luke 6:28, Rom 12:20

✦ Christ focused love is a choice that is best exemplified through sacrifice. We love our neighbors not only by vocalizing our love but also by showing it through GIVING. This is not always easy, especially for those people we don't know or naturally like, but we must make the choice to love our neighbors anyway and show them through our giving even when we may not necessarily want to, without condition...just like Jesus. Ref. John 3:16, Mark 6:39, Matthew 28:20

Spirit of God: Loving Yourself

“.....And Love your neighbor as yourself.....”

- What can we learn from the Holy Spirit about loving ourselves? The scriptures teach us that the Holy Spirit dwells within us individually for several functions. Including, but not limited to, these: To communicate joy in us (Ref. Rom. 14:17, Gal. 5:22, 1 Thess. 1:6), to edify and encourage us (Ref. Acts 9:31), to channel God's love (Ref. Rom. 5:5), to impart hope (Ref. Rom. 15:13, Gal 5:5), to teach us (Ref. John 14:26), to dwell in us (Ref. John 14:17), to be our advocate (Ref. John 14:16), and our comforter.
- We see that though Jesus focused whole heartedly on the existential needs of the people, he never under estimated the importance of the individuals inner development, or the need for self help.
- We all have inner issues that we may or may not share with others. However a brief study of the Holy Spirit shows us it is important to God that we have joy, encouragement, hope, comfort, peace, and that we believe in and Love ourselves.
- God thought this to be so important that He already placed in you ALL of those things! So many of us look outwards for those including love and yet all along its been lying within!
- When we learn this we begin the journey of becoming like our Father! BECOMING LOVE! We end the lifestyle of figuring out who or how to love but CHANGE OUR PERSPECTIVE to BEING LOVE. At that point you truly learn how to love yourself UNCONDITIONALLY.

“There can be no excess in love” –Bishop James E. Tyson

Let it be said, in no uncertain terms, Love is the essence and fundamental truth of Christ. But can I love myself too much? Can I love people too much? Can I love God too much? The answer is, NO! You can only love other things **TOO LITTLE!** Therefore throwing the Trinity out of **BALANCE**. As long as those 3 focal points are **KEPT IN BALANCE** there can be no excess in love.

- ◆ Loving God *over* His people & yourself is flattering to Him but can cause you to lose touch and influence with those people He Himself has called you to! Creating harsh, unloving, apathetic, heavenly bound Christians of no earthly good. If your love for God is limitless make sure your love for His people, including you matches it.

- ◆ Loving People *over* God & yourself leads you to put all of your affection into double-minded, temporal beings when you should keep your eyes on those things that are eternal. This can cause much unnecessary hurt. But loving people with same passion as you love God and yourself can strengthen relationships and change the world!

- ◆ Loving yourself *over* God and His people can make you a megalomaniac. Loving yourself *as much* as you Love God & His people can make all of your dreams come true!

Balance is the key to Life!

And it is necessary in order to stay humble and to be effective!

Don't love too little....but express ridiculous amounts of unconditional love to yourself, to the world, and to god

Triune god/triune lovE

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is like it, namely this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” –Jesus the Christ

