

# The First and Greatest Commandment

Dr. Nicolas Ellen



# The Diversity of the Love of God For Mankind

1. **Salvation Love**- God's giving of Jesus Christ to be crucified, killed, buried, and resurrected from the dead for the sins of mankind; So that whoever believes in the person and work of Jesus Christ may be delivered from the penalty, power, and soon presence of sin unto a new right relationship with God. (John 3:16-18, 1John 2:2)
2. **Selecting Love**- God's choosing us who have believed in the person and work of Jesus Christ before the foundation of the world to be delivered from the penalty, power, and soon presence of sin unto a new right relationship with Him; to be apart of His Family according to His will and good pleasure. (Ephesians 1:3-6, Romans 8:29-30)
3. **Sovereign Love**- God's provision for all (believer, unbeliever, creation) in various ways according to His will and good pleasure. (Luke 6:35, Matthew 6: 25-34)
4. **Submission Love**- God's benefits to those who are in covenant relationship with Him and are consistently choosing to submit to Him through obedience to His commands. (John 15:10, John 14:21)





# The Diversity of the Love of God For Mankind

## I. The Salvation Love of God is seen in God's: (Acts 4:8-12)

- A. Person- God the Father sent God the Son(Jesus Christ) who took on a perfect human body to live the perfect life and to die the perfect death to save those who would believe in Him to save them from the penalty, power, and presence of sin unto a new and right relationship with God. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
- B. Propitiation- God has satisfied the penalty of sin for all through crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 John 4:9-10)
- C. Promotion- God has made this salvation available to all nations of the world. (Titus 2:11)
- D. Promise- God has guaranteed to save all who call upon the name of Jesus Christ to save them from their sin unto a new and right relationship with God the Father. (Romans 10:9-11)
- E. Preservation- God has guaranteed to keep all who trust in this salvation secure forever; they can never loose it! (John 10:27-29)





# The Diversity of the Love of God For Mankind

- II. The Selecting Love of God is seen in the fact that those whom God has selected to be in His family have been: (John 6:44,65)**
- A. Rescued- delivered from consequences of sin and the domain of darkness. (Colossians 1:13)
  - B. Redeemed- ransom for sin paid, removal from the curse of the law, release from the bondage of sin. (Ephesians 1:7)
  - C. Regenerated- made alive to spiritual life from spiritual death. (Titus 3:5-6)
  - D. Reconciled- placed in right standing and right relationship with God.  
(2Corinthians 5:17-18)
  - E. Received- adopted and welcomed into the family of God. (Ephesians 1:5)





# The Diversity of the Love of God For Mankind

**III. The Sovereign Love of God is seen in the fact that He is generous to all whether believer or unbeliever by giving them (but not limited to): (Matthew 5:43-45)**

- A. Provision- food, clothing, shelter. (Acts 17:24-25)
- B. Pleasure- satisfying one's heart with gladness. (Acts 14:8-17)
- C. Protection- shielded from particular, hurt, harm, and danger. (Psalm 146:9)
- D. Prosperity- having the benefits of this life. (Ecclesiastes 7:14)






# The Diversity of the Love of God For Mankind

**IV. The Submission Love of God is seen in that those who are his and are consistently choosing to submit to God through obedience to His commands will experience (but not limited to): (Psalm 103:11-18)**

- A. Stability- to have a life of sturdiness as you obey God's commands. (2 Peter 1:1-10)
- B. Solutions- to have insight as to how to handle life issues God's way as you obey His commands. (James 1: 5-8)
- C. Satisfaction – to experience the peace of God and the joy of His presence as you obey His commands. (Philippians 4:6-9)
- D. Success-the ability to be productive according to the ways of God as you obey His commands. (John 15:1-11)





## **The First And Greatest Commandment (John 14:21-23)**

**Definition of Love for God:** To have a high regard for, a sincere value of, a committed devotion to, a genuine joy in, resulting in the act of the will submitting to the will and directives of God



# The First And Greatest Commandment (John 14:21-23)

- I. To love God is to obey His commands out of a pure heart, good conscience, and sincere Faith; Is not a burden. (1Timothy 1:5, 1John 5:3)
  - A. To obey the commands means to faithfully/ consistently (not perfectly) adhere to and follow the will and directions given by God as a way of life.
  - B. To obey the commands is an act of the will that moves into action to do what is instructed by God on faithful/consistent basis (not perfectly) as a way of life.
  - C. To obey the commands is not a slavish fear to his directives but a willing submission to the instructions and directions of God as a way of life.



# The First And Greatest Commandment (John 14:21-23)

- II. If we love God by obeying His commands , it will result in experiencing more of God's love towards us and His presence with us. (Philippians 4:9, John 15:10-11, Psalm 16:11, Ephesians 3:14-19)
- A. As we walk in love for God the Father and God the Son through genuine obedience, we will come to experience deeper dimensions of God's love towards us.
  - B. As we walk in love for God the Father and God the Son through genuine obedience, we will come to experience a deeper reality of the presence of Jesus Christ resulting in experiencing more of the Person, character, and goodness of Jesus Christ.
  - C. As we walk in love for God the Father and God the Son through genuine obedience, they will make themselves at home in our hearts being the resident masters that direct our attitudes and conduct accordingly as we experience the work of rooting and grounding us in love by God the Holy Spirit.



# The First And Greatest Commandment (John 14:21-23)

- III. If we have a genuine love for God it will not be demonstrated by merely talking about God and His Word; It will be revealed through our willing and consistent obedience to God through submission to His Word. (Romans 6:17-18, 1John 2:3-6, 3:1-10, Luke 6:40, 43-49)
- A. Genuine obedience is demonstrated by acceptance of the person and work of Jesus Christ to save us from the penalty of sin, power of sin and soon the presence of sin resulting in becoming a slave to God instead of slave to sin.
  - B. Genuine obedience is demonstrated by application of God's command in all aspects of life.
  - C. Genuine obedience is demonstrated as we apply God's command to our:



# The First And Greatest Commandment (John 14:21-23)

1. *Character*-to reflect the personality of God on the inside and outside

“That in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.” Ephesians 4: 21-24



# The First And Greatest Commandment (John 14:21-23)


2. **Conduct**-to carry yourself in a manner that represents holiness of God and not self-righteousness or self-indulgence

“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lust which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior, because it is written “You shall be Holy for I Am Holy”.

1Peter 1:14-16

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on the things that are on the earth”. Colossians 3:1-2





# The First And Greatest Commandment (John 14:21-23)

3. **Conversation**- to speak words and to have dialogue that displays that character of God

“Let no unwholesome words process from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment so that it will grace to those who hear”. Ephesians 4:29



# The First And Greatest Commandment (John 14:21-23)

## 4. Commitments- devoting yourself to God

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship”. Romans 12:1

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I command you; and lo I am with you always even to the end of the age”.  
Matthew 28:19-20



# The First And Greatest Commandment (John 14:21-23)

5. **Commodities**- enjoy and share generously the resources God has provided you without putting hope in the resources God has provided you.

“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy, Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share” 1Timothy 6:17-18



# The First And Greatest Commandment (John 14:21-23)

6. **Communion**- stay in consistent fellowship with other believers

“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near”. Hebrews 10:24-25



**Trusting And Embracing God**  
**(Proverbs 3:5-6)**

**What Happens When We Don't Trust God with Our Lives?**

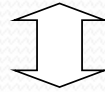
**Unbelief**

**(Hebrews 3:7-19)**

There is the idea that God is not doing enough for us; or that God is not enough for us

(We reject the truth about God)

(We believe a lie about God)



**Selfish Ambition**

**(James 3:13-16)**

We live as if all things are for us (God is nonexistent)

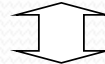
We live as if all things are about us (God is nonexistent)

We live as if everything revolves around us (God is nonexistent)

We become preoccupied with what we want in place of obedience to God;

We are consumed with pleasures of this life; use people as avenues for our satisfaction

(I want need, I demand, I must have, I can't do without)



**Discontentment**

**(Ecclesiastes 5:10-11)**

We are never satisfied with anything or anyone and never seem to have enough of either

(If Only I had, I should have, Why don't I have, Life would be better if, I deserve)



**Anger**

**(James 1:19-20)**

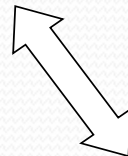
Negative reaction to not getting our way



**Worry**

**(Matthew 6:25-34)**

Fear of what we may lose or not receive



**Despair**

**(Ecclesiastes 2:17)**

Sorrow with no hope because we view life without a proper view of God

(Chart Adapted from Taking Time to Quiet Your Noisy Soul (Workbook) by Jim Berg)



# What Happens when You Live as if God is Not Enough?

## **Self-Centered (Psalm 10:3-4)**

You live as if all things are for you (God is nonexistent)  
You live as if all things are about you (God is nonexistent)  
You live as if everything revolves around you (God is nonexistent)



## **Self-Ambitious (James 3:13-16)**

You become preoccupied with what you want in place of obedience to God

I want  
I need  
I demand.....  
I must have.....  
I can't do without

## **Self-Serving (Philippians 3:17-19)**

You become consumed with the pleasures of this life

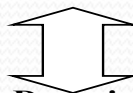
## **Self-Serving Relating (Romans 1:22-27)**

You use people as avenues for your satisfaction

## **Anger**

**(Numbers 20:1-13, Proverb 19:2-3)**

You get upset with People and God when they don't come through as you want



## **Despair**

**( Ecclesiastes 2:17)**

*Sorrow with no hope because you live life with out considering the will and ways of God*

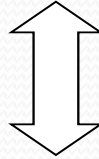


## What Happens When We Trust God With Our Lives?

### Belief

(Psalm 73:25-26)

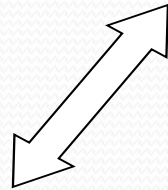
We accept the truth that God is doing enough  
We accept the truth that God is enough



### Contentment

(Philippians 4:10-14)

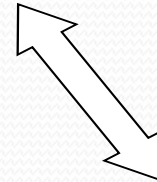
We accept what we have  
We accept what God has  
has allowed in our lives  
We accept who we have  
We learn to live without when  
necessary



### **Thanksgiving**

(1Thessalonians 5:18)

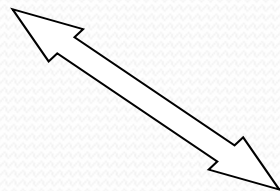
We appreciate that God is in control;  
that God will work all things to our good



### **Submission**

(Romans 12:1-3)

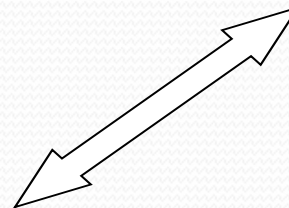
We obey God  
We follow God



### Hope

(Romans 5:1-5)

We put our expectation in what God will do according to His Promises  
(Idea adapted from Jim Berg)







## Questions to Consider

1. What do you tend to believe about God as it relates to your life?
2. How have you come to that Conclusion? Please explain.
3. What seems to matter most to you, God's Glory or your personal matters and ambitions? Please explain.
4. How do your attitudes, words, actions, and relationship patterns reflect your answer in question 3? Please explain.
5. What do you need to change about your perspective of God?
6. How will changing your perspective of God impact your view of your present situation or circumstances? Please explain.
7. How will changing your perspective of God impact your relationship with God?
8. How will changing your perspective of God impact your relationship with others?
9. What is the premise of trusting God?
10. What is the pitfall to trusting God?





## Questions to Consider

11. What are the signs of leaning on your own understanding?
12. What is the process of trusting God?
13. What is the promise of trusting God?
14. How are you trusting God right now?





## **Practical Tools for Embracing God and Meditating on Who He Is**

There are few characteristics of God on the following page. They are placed under the far left column called Characteristics of God to embrace. Immediately to the right of the column of Characteristics of God to embrace are application assignments columns that correspond to the Characteristics of God to embrace column. They are labeled, The Perspective we should have as a result of embracing this characteristic, The Practice we should develop as a result of embracing this characteristic, The Patterns of Relating we should have as a result of embracing this characteristic. Along with that chart is another chart to documentation according to how you embrace those characteristics accordingly. In addition, is a chart given of more characteristics and assignment to follow.





### **Step 1 (*Characteristic of God to Embrace*)**

As you find the particular characteristic of God you want to embrace under the column labeled “Characteristic of God to Embrace” Read the definition of that characteristic and read the Bible verse placed with that definition. Place this information on index card that you can take with you daily. Put the Characteristic and the definition on one side of the card and then place the verse written out on the other side of the card. Review the card three times a day. In the morning, in the noon day and at night





## **Step 2 (The Perspective we should have as a result of embracing this characteristic)**

Along with that characteristic of God you want to embrace review the application assignment under the column “The Perspective we should have as a result of embracing this characteristic” that corresponds to the characteristic you are seeking to embrace. Read the perspective and read the Bible verse placed with that perspective. Place this information on an index card that you can take with you daily. Put the perspective on one side of the card and then place the verse written out on the other side of the card. Review the card 30 times a day. All throughout the day.





### **Step 3 (The Practice we should develop as a result of embracing this characteristic)**

Along with reviewing the application assignment under “The Perspective we should have as a result of embracing this characteristic” column, you want to review the application assignment under the column “The Practice we should develop as a result of embracing this characteristic” that corresponds to the characteristic you are seeking to embrace. Read the practice and read the Bible verse placed with that perspective. Place this information on an index card that you can take with you daily. Identify ways you can apply that practice during the week. As you apply that practice review that index card.





#### **Step 4 (The Patterns of Relating we should walk in as a result of embracing this characteristic)**

Along with reviewing the application assignment under “The Practice we should develop as result have as a result of embracing this characteristic”, you want to review the application assignment under the column “The Patterns of Relating we should walk in as result of embracing this characteristic” that corresponds to the characteristic you are seeking to embrace. Read the pattern and read the Bible verse placed with that pattern. Place this information on an index card that you can take with you daily. Identify ways you can apply that pattern of relating during the week. As you apply pattern of relating review that index card.





## **Step 5(Documentation)**

As you walk through the practice of step 1 – step 4 document this information on the chart that follows the chart of characteristics accordingly.




Characteristics of God to embrace	The Perspective We Should have as a result of embracing this Characteristic	The Practice we should develop as result of embracing this Characteristic	The Patterns of relating we should walk in as a result of embracing this Characteristic
<b>Supreme</b> – He is first and foremost before all things; all created things were designed to reflect the greatness of God; His glory is our goal. (Romans 11:36)	I exist for His glory (Romans 11:36)	Live for the audience of God alone, Put God first (1Corinthians 10:31)	Consider God's Glory not your personal gain when relating to others (Philippians 2:1-4)
<b>Sovereign</b> - God controls all things; nothing happens unless God allows it or ordains it; He upholds all things by His power (Ecclesiastes 7:13-14)	My life is in the hands of God and He has it under control (Ecclesiastes 9:1)	Trust God with all your heart by focusing on what you are called to do and stop trying to play God with your circumstances (Proverbs 3: 5-8)	Stop trying to control what others think, say, and do in relation to you or with anything and accept your role under God with them (Matthew 22:34-40)
<b>Sufficient</b> – God is enough and He is doing enough in relation to my life (Psalm 145:17-21)	God is enough and He is doing enough for me (Psalm 73:25-28)	Enjoy what God provides without complaining about what you do not have (Philippians 4:10-14)	Give to others knowing God will supply your needs (Luke 6:30-36)
<b>Holy</b> – unique and set apart from sin while dedicated to His glory (Isaiah 6:1-4)	I must be in the world but be set apart for Christ (1Peter 1:13-16)	Present your body as a living and holy sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1)	Treat others as precious and valuable to God (1Thessalonians 4:1-8)
<b>Loving</b> – seeks the highest good of others; gives himself for the good of others; gives himself to be a blessing to others (Romans 5:8-11)	God is always looking out for me no matter what happens (Hebrews 13:5-6)	Live to represent God in all you do today (1Corinthians 10:31)	Bear burdens and meet needs of others (Galatians 6:1-2, Titus 3:14)
<b>Wise</b> – He knows and works the best course of action to bring about His glory and our greatest good (Romans 8:28-39)	God knows how to bring about the best results for my life (Romans 8:28-39)	Listen to God and follow Him accordingly (Ecclesiastes 5:1-2)	Listen to others with the intent to learn what to do or what not to do accordingly (Proverbs 18:15)
<b>Gracious</b> – showing favor, being a benefit and being generous to people who deserve punishment without them having to earn it or work for it (Ephesians 2:8-10)	I will receive blessings that I don't deserve because of my relationship with God (Psalm 103:1-8)	Give thanks to God and enjoy what He provides (1Thessalonians 5:18)	Be kind and beneficial to people who don't deserve it (Luke 6:30-36)
<b>Merciful</b> – not giving people the punishment they deserve (2Samuel 24:14-25)	God has never let me experience the full consequences of my sin (Psalm 103:9-10)	Repent of all known sin accordingly to God (2Corinthians 7:10-11)	Be merciful to others without dismissing their sin (Romans 12:17-18)
<b>Forgiving</b> – canceled the debt owed by sin; will not hold sin against us (Psalm 103:1-14)	God will always forgive if I ask for it (1John 1:9)	Confess sins to God accordingly (Psalm 32:1-5)	Forgive others as you have been forgiven by God (Matthew 18:21-35)
<b>Faithful</b> – God will always be true to His Word; He will always do whatever He says or promises (Numbers 23:19)	The Lord will never leave me nor forsake me He will always be there (Hebrews 13:5-6)	Serve God faithfully while continuing to wait on His return (1Corinthians 15:58)	Be faithful to others according to the level of the relationship (Proverbs 27:6)




<b>What Characteristic of God will you embrace today?</b>	<b>How did this characteristic of God impact your perspective of life today?</b>	<b>How did this characteristic of God impact the way you lived life today?</b>	<b>How did this characteristic of God impact the way you related to others today?</b>
Day 1			
Day 2			
Day 3			
Day 4			
Day 5			
Day 6			
Day 7			
Day 8			
Day 9			
Day 10			
Day 11			
Day 12			
Day 13			
Day 14			
Day 15			



- 
1. There are at least three major stages of spiritual development:
  2. **Stage One of Spiritual Development:** A *child* knows he is a child of God and is forgiven of his sin, but has not yet developed in overcoming the evil one and abiding in the Word of God.





3. **Stage Two of Spiritual Development:** A  
young man is one who is strong in the faith,  
overcoming the evil one and his opposition,  
and abiding in the word of God.

4. **Stage Three of Spiritual Development** A  
Father is one who has a deep personal  
knowing of God beyond intellectual insight;  
along with being strong in the faith,  
overcoming evil one, overcoming opposition,  
and abiding in the word of God.



# 5. Men can move through the major stages as they learn and practice:

## **A. The Distinctive Elements Christians are to grow in:**

1. Christians are to develop in godly thinking patterns and motives (Romans 12:2).
2. Christians are to develop in godly desires (Matthew 6:19-22, Colossians 3:1-5).
3. Christians are to develop in godly communication patterns (Ephesians 4:29).
4. Christians are to develop in godly behavioral patterns (Ephesians 4:17-32).
5. Christians are to develop in godly relational patterns (Colossians 3:12-14).
6. Christians are to develop in godly serving patterns (John 13:1-17).



## B. The Determined Steps Christians are to take

1. **Realization** – A Christian must come to see truth and understand how it applies to their life (2Timothy 2:24-26).
2. **Remorse** – A Christian must come to feel godly sorrow in relation to their sin and desire to make things right with God and others accordingly.(2 Corinthians 7:10).
2. **Renounce** – A Christian must come to confess their sin to God and to others when appropriate (Psalm 32:1-11, James 5:16).
3. **Repentance**– A Christian must come to turn away from their sin towards God and towards others accordingly (Proverbs 28:13, 2Corinthians 7:10-11).
4. **Renewal** – A Christian must come to meditate on the truth so that he may learn the new direction by which he/she is to obey God and love others accordingly (Ephesians 4:17-23).
5. **Replacement** – A Christian must come to obey God and love others in the areas where he has disobeyed God and been unloving towards others (Ephesians 4:17-23).



## C. The Devoted Life Christians are to have

1. **Membership** – Christians should be devoted to a local church that they may experience love and enjoy the blessings of God-honoring relationships. (Hebrews 10:19-24)
2. **Maturity** – Christians should be devoted to discipleship in a local Church that would lead them into loving God, loving others on a consistent basis and living a life that reflects the character of Christ. (2Timothy 2:15-22)



## C. The Devoted Life Men are to have

3. **Magnification** – Christians should be devoted to appreciating, valuing and adoring the character of God through heart-felt genuine worship of Him in a local Church. (John 4:23-24)
4. **Ministry** – Christians should be devoted to serving in a ministry where they can develop in bearing burdens and meeting needs according to the various relationships they will develop through the local Church. (1Peter 4:10-11)
5. **Missions** – Christians should be devoted to working with and supporting the Church in sharing and defending the Christian faith. (2 Corinthians 5:15-21, 1Peter 3:15)





D. The Doctrines,  
Disciplines, Duties, and  
Demographics Christians  
are to train in



Doctrines to know about	Disciplines how to	Duties how to	Demographics how to
GOD BIBLE CHRIST MAN SIN SALVATION	CONFESS SIN REPENT OF SIN STUDY/MEDITATE ON THE WORD OF GOD	BEAR BURDENS MEET NEEDS PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL	FUNCTION IN MARRIAGE AS A MAN AS A WOMAN
HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH LAST THINGS ANGELS SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP	FORGIVE OTHERS APPLY TRUTH SERVE OTHERS	DEFEND THE GOSPEL GIVE MONETARILY TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH	FUNCTION AS A SENIOR CITIZEN AS A YOUNG ADULT AS A COLLEGE STUDENT
SPIRITUAL GIFTS SANCTIFICATION OLD TESTAMENT NEW TESTAMENT STEWARDSHIP JUDGEMENT/ REWARDS	PRAY WORSHIP	CORPORATELY FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP	FUNCTION AS A TEENAGER AS A CHILD



# The Process of Change

Dr. Nicolas Ellen