

Checking the foundation

We tend to forget the foundational things:

- Why we love our spouse
- Why we serve

Picture in the wallet

Hopefully I will not be telling you anything new.

What was God doing before creation?

Ephesians 1:3–6 (NASB95): 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

- 1) Every Spiritual blessing in the heavenly places found in Christ
- 2) God chose us before the world was created
- 3) He has given us this grace freely

God's love for the world (John 3:16)

God loves the world “in this way.” The value is not found in the word “so” it is found in what was given.

God loves by giving and what He gives is of the utmost value.

We know when, how, and why we were loved. Now what do we do about it?

Love God first:

Matthew 22:36-40 = Greatest commandment

Love God - Deuteronomy 6:5

Love your neighbor (Lev 19:18)

He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me
(Matthew 10:37)

“How come we gotta love God more than...”

Love your neighbor as yourself

1 John 4:10–11 (NASB95): 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

God doesn't just love us for we can be loved. He also loves us to give us an example

Loving the way God calls us to love is the supernatural byproduct of being loved by God AND receiving that love.

You cannot give this love fully if you don't receive it fully.

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They will know you are disciples of mine by your love for one another

John 13:34–35 (NASB95): 34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

35 “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- The commandment is new because the measurement now is how Jesus loves.
- He just wash the disciples feet
- They had just been arguing about which among them was the greatest.

John 14:15 (NASB95): 15 “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

≠ if you love me you better keep my commandments

If we love God then that which follows will be obedience (not perfectly)

Philippians 1:6 (NASB95): 6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

John 15:9–11 (NASB95): 9 “Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.

10 “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

11 “These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

This verse is a trip!

This is how deeply we are loved

If you love me you will keep my commandments, If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love

The commandments of the Lord are not burdensome.

Our greatest joy and God’s greatest glory are not at odds with one another

1 John 4:7–8 (NASB95): 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God is love but love is not God. We cannot flip the two

1 John 4:20–21 (NASB95): 20 If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.
21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

If we do not love others we cannot say that we love God. If we have hate in us for others we cannot say we love God.

If I say I love my wife but I scream at her, we fight all the time, I withhold affection from her. I can SAY all I want but I SHOW what is true.

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Love your enemies

Matthew 5:44–45 (NASB95): 44 “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Notice there are no parentheses in this verse. Meaning there are no exceptions here.

1 Corinthians 13:1–3 (NASB95): 1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love is primary in the Christian life. Without it we have no Christian life.

How can we love God better?

How can we love each other better?

How can we love better in our homes (communities)?

