

Abundant Life: The Love Cycle:

Righteous Self Love Pt. 3

Self-love is displayed when we deny ourselves, defer to God's will, and do what He commands.

Righteous Self-Love

God truly loves you, and there is nothing that could ever separate you from His love. One of His greatest desires is for you to desire to love Him back. But how can you desire God if you don't know Him?

Psalm 34:8 New King James Version

8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

- When you put your trust in Him over and over again, you will acquire a desire for more of Him.
- Whether you give Him the credit or not, He's been good to you!
- When you experience His love, peace, and presence, you'll want more and more of Him in your life.

John 10:10 New King James Version

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Only when our lives are filled with a desire to follow Jesus will we obey Him in a way that brings us abundant life. Our desire to lovingly follow Him will compel us to do three things that lead to true self-love.



1. Deny to the death
2. Defer to the divine
3. Do what He does

Desire

- Without our lives being surrounded by a constant desire to love and please God, we will be lost.

Matthew 16:24-27 New Living Translation

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants (desires) to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. 26 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?[a] Is anything worth more than your soul? 27 For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds.

- DESIRE is that internal act, which, by influencing the will, makes us proceed to action. (Webster 1828)
- 'My desire influences my will, leading me into action.'
- In order to have godly desires, we must receive God within, we need a new heart.
- John 3:3 New Living Translation
3 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again,[a] you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Deny to the Death

Our sinful nature must be denied to death, why? Our sinful nature is dirty, defiant, and disobedient, it cannot be tamed, it must be destroyed. So when Jesus said deny yourself, pick up your cross, and follow me, where does He take us? We have to remember what the cross of Jesus Christ was for and why we put our faith there.

Romans 6:6 New Living Translation

6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

Galatians 2:20

New King James Version

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Defer to the Divine

- Since we've denied ourselves to the death, now what's next? Defer!
- Now that you've received a new godly nature, you have to rebel against your old nature instead of rebelling against God.
- When we defer to the divine, we invite the wisdom and leading of God into our lives.
- Then by obeying His words, we receive what He promises.
- To defer to the divine is to discard your thoughts and ways for His.
- Watch in this passage of scripture how obedience is always followed by a blessing. Deferring to the divine brings God's best to you, and if you truly loved yourself, that would be your desire.

Proverbs 3:1-8 New Living Translation

3 My child,[a] never forget the things I have taught you.

Store my commands in your heart.

2 If you do this, you will live many years,
and your life will be satisfying.

- 3 Never let loyalty and kindness leave you!
Tie them around your neck as a reminder.
Write them deep within your heart.
- 4 Then you will find favor with both God and people,
and you will earn a good reputation.
- 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.
- 6 Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take.
- 7 Don't be impressed with your own wisdom.
Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.
- 8 Then you will have healing for your body
and strength for your bones.

Luke 15:16-20 New Living Translation

16 The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. 17 "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, 19 and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."' 20 "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.

- The prodigal left abundance, was reduced to starvation, and then went back to abundance.
- Listening to his own heart almost killed him.
- He deferred to the divine by repenting and going back to his father.

Matthew 3:13-17 New Living Translation The Baptism of Jesus

13 Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" 15 But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.[a]" So John agreed to baptize

him. 16 After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened[b] and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

- John deferred to the divine by agreeing to do what Jesus asked.
- True love for God is only displayed by doing what is asked of us.

Luke 22:39-43 New Living Translation Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

39 Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives. 40 There he told them, “Pray that you will not give in to temptation.” 41 He walked away, about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, 42 “Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” 43 Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him..

- Jesus deferred to the divine by denying His own will, in order to please the Father.

Genesis 39:6-10

New Living Translation

6 So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn’t worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat! Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, 7 and Potiphar’s wife soon began to look at him lustfully. “Come and sleep with me,” she demanded. 8 But Joseph refused. “Look,” he told her, “my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. 9 No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.” 10 She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible.

- Joseph deferred to the divine by desiring to please God.

John 6:63-68

New Living Translation

63 The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But some of you do not

believe me.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning which ones didn’t believe, and he knew who would betray him.) 65 Then he said, “That is why I said that people can’t come to me unless the Father gives them to me.” 66 At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. 67 Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, “Are you also going to leave?” 68 Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life.

- We defer to the divine by recognizing that we only find self-preservation in obedience to Jesus Christ, the life-giving Spirit.

Do What He Does

- After we have denied ourselves and deferred to the divine, there’s only one thing left to do!
- Do what He does! In prayer, in the word, in godly counsel.

John 5:19 New Living Translation

19 So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.

Luke 6:43-49 New Living Translation

43 “A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. 44 A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. 45 A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart. 46 “So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say? 47 I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. 48 It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. 49 But anyone who hears and doesn’t obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.”

John 14:15 New Living Translation

15 “If you love me, obey my commandments.